

LA CITY (AFP) — The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) is asking Israel to allow the first ship to use the new 1.5-mile area's partially completed port, the facility's manager said Friday. An Egyptian ship is to bring in 100 tonnes of material to help finish building the port, Maher Madoukh told AFP. It will have to anchor off the Gaza coast and unload the cargo onto smaller boats that will sail into port. He said the PNA's transport ministry was going through the joint liaison committee with Israel to seek permission for the ship to dock off Gaza waters. Under the agreement that launched autonomy in May, Israel has the final word in granting permits for entry into the waters of Gaza and its international land border with Egypt at Rafah. Work on the port, which is to be replaced eventually with a larger facility, began about three months ago. Mr. Madoukh, whose private company is financing construction, said costs for the first year amount to \$9 million and another \$21 million will be used to build more docks. He said the port would be officially handed over to the transport ministry once complete. Meanwhile all ships using it would be bringing in building material and not commercial goods.

# Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
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## Jordan urges U.N. action in Bosnia

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan on Friday urged the international community to work on ending the "ethnic cleansing" in the former Yugoslav republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina and for bringing to trial Serb militias responsible for such policies. In an address to the U.N. General Assembly, the Kingdom's permanent representative at the U.N., Adnan Abu Odeh, called on the international community to annul and reverse all the results of these policies and to affirm the right of the Bosnian refugees to return to their lands. Dr. Abu Odeh said the international community should also intensify its efforts and increase relief aid to the Bosnian people before the start of winter. He said that the Serbs should also be forced to lift the siege of Sarajevo and other Bosnian cities. The siege constitutes an obstacle in the face of peace efforts, he said. The arms embargo imposed on the Bosnian government contradicts the Bosnian people's right to self-defence though Article 51 of the U.N. Charter provides for this right, he said.

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# 21 die, 11 missing in flashfloods

## King orders panel to study damages and compensation, donates JD 50,000

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Twenty-one Jordanians were killed and 34 others were injured in floods that swept the Kingdom during the week, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Friday.

It said 11 people were missing as a result of the heavy rain, which swept away homes in various governorates in southern and eastern Jordan.

Petra quoted earlier Interior Minister Salameh Hammad as reporting 17 deaths. He did not specify the number of injured and missing Jordanians.

Although temperatures dip to much below freezing level during a three-month winter season that starts in late December, heavy rain and floods are rare in Jordan. Scores of people were killed or injured in floods that hit Israel and the occupied territories as well as Egyptian Wednesday and Thursday.

His Majesty King Hussein

on Friday issued directives to the concerned authorities to set up a committee to follow up the conditions of citizens residing in areas that were affected by the flashfloods with the aim of studying damages and offering compensations.

The King also announced that he was making a personal donation of JD 50,000 to people affected by the floods.

The King delegated governors in the concerned areas to offer his condolences to the families of those killed by the floods and issued directives to government departments to offer every possible care to the injured and to step up efforts to search for those missing.

King Hussein was all day Friday following with the conditions of citizens residing in areas affected by the floods, Petra said.

More rain is expected Saturday in most regions of the country with heavy con-

centration in the northern areas, according to the Department of Meteorology Friday.

A department spokesman told the Jordan Times that Saturday's rains will be accompanied by a drop in temperatures to 18°C from 22°C on Friday as a result of a cold front moving in a north-westerly direction. Mr. Hammad said earlier 13 people died Thursday in Mafrak and Zarqa, two others died in Ma'an and another two were killed in Madaba. The seven people missing were feared drowned in Zarqa where a river overflowed, the minister said.

Among the dead was 38-year-old Fawzieh Hadid who died when flood waters poured into Petra in the Ma'an governorate, according to the Civil Defence Department (CDD).

The CDD said that Ms. Hadid's 35-year-old sister was saved, but suffered injuries.

Also among the dead was

18-year-old Khaldoun Issa Aqaleb, who was killed when he was swept away by the rising streams.

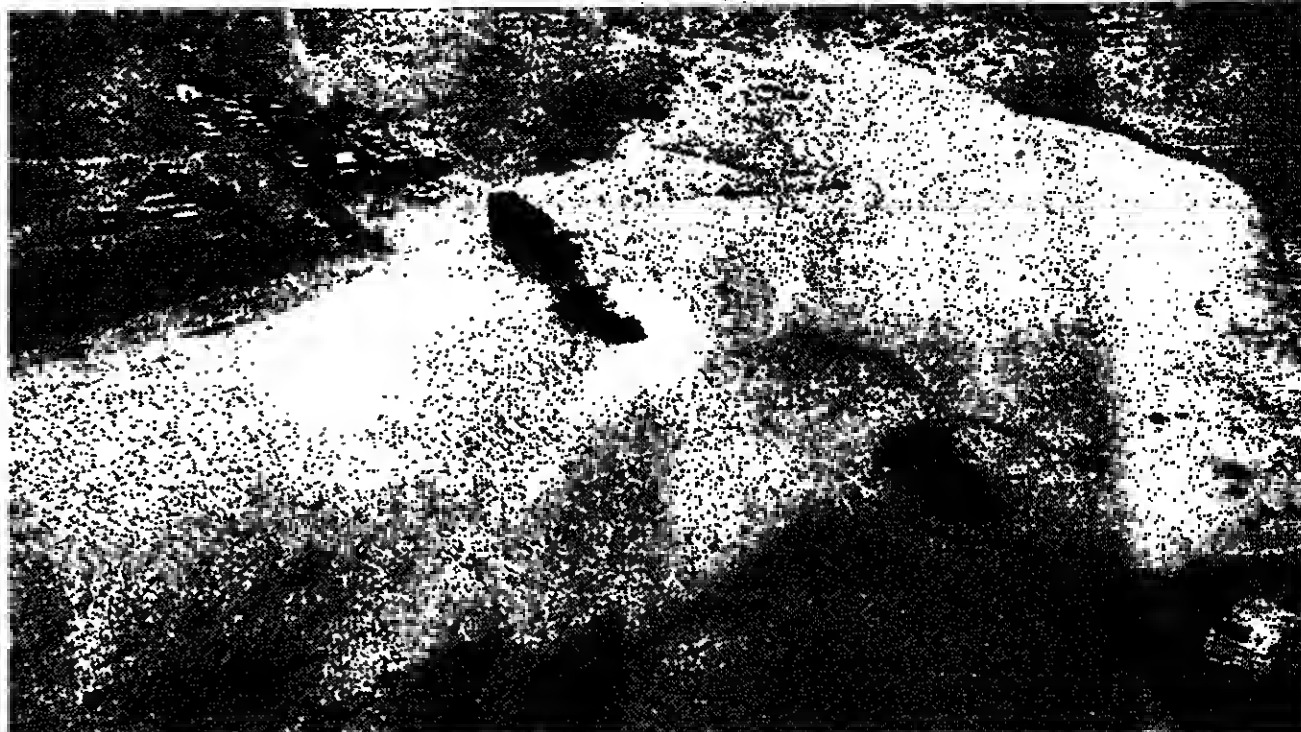
In Madaba, an unidentified citizen was reported to have died and his body was later found by local residents. In Jerash two children and a man were reported to have been carried away by floods near Jisr Al Kuman district.

The Public Security Department (PSD) said that the heavy rain and floods swept away a bus full of passengers and a small car in Qasr Al Hallabat area near Azraq, but all the passengers were pulled to safety.

The PSD said that the passengers of another bus near Mafrak were left stranded by the flood waters; they were rescued later by Civil Defence teams.

The PSD said the rainfall in Mafrak, Balama, Ramtha and Zarqa flooded scores of homes, cut off several villages and caused the destruc-

(Continued on page 3)



The flooded Wadi Faran river in the Wadi Araba desert where nine Israeli buses on their way to Eilat were stranded

when torrential rains made driving impossible in a few minutes (AFP photo)

## Death toll nears 550 in Egypt flame-hit villages

CAIRO (Agencies) — The death toll in the southern province of Assiut rose to 541 Friday from an oil depot fire and torrential rains, police and hospitals said Friday.

At least 481 bodies have been recovered in the Assiut village of Dronka, after it was devastated by a fire at an oil depot there Wednesday.

On Friday alone rescue workers dug out 42 bodies from the Dronka debris. Rescue workers said they pulled out 15 bodies from one house alone.

Police said that 60 people died in torrential rains in other parts of Assiut.

They had previously said that 35 people died in the floods. The blaze was sparked when oil from an army depot caught fire, sending a river of flame through Dronka.

The rains which began early Wednesday caused huge floods that killed at least eight other people in other provinces and left thousands of people homeless.

In the southern province of Sohag 495 kilometres south of Cairo, four people died in flooding, among them a young girl, according to police.

In the tourist resort of Taba along the Red Sea, a

### King phones Mubarak

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Thursday called Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, condoling him over the death of over 500 Egyptians who were killed in southern Egypt as a result of floods and fire. President Mubarak thanked the King for his brotherly feelings and position towards the victims, the Jordan News Agency, Petra said.

British tourist died when the floods trapped her tour bus. Also in the Red Sea area, two school children were reported dead.

A student drowned in a ditch in Fayum province where rains lasted for more than 35 hours.

Police said 200 people would be buried in a mass grave in Dronka village cemetery.

Rescue workers will continue their search for bodies in Dronka for 10 days, the head of the Assiut ambulance services Ali Mohammad told AFP.

Rescue workers feared that hundreds of people remain under the charred ruins of Dronka.

Rescue operations were hampered early Friday when a barrel of oil exploded. The rains carried dozens of barrels from near the Dronka oil depot through the village, Ali told AFP, adding that

rescue workers' main priority was to remove the barrels from the village to avoid another fire.

According to Egyptian state television, the floods destroyed about 5,000 homes in southern Egypt, with 3,000 in Qena province alone. Assiut lost 1,400 homes, the tourist city of Luxor 250, Sohag province 243, and Aswan eight.

President Hosni Mubarak visited the disaster areas on Friday.

Local government officials said the president stayed away from the village of Dronka where a sea of burning fuel from a storage depot killed more than 400 of the total.

The president discussed relief operations with officials in the cities of Minya and Assiut and then saw a tented encampment in the village of

(Continued on page 3)

## Jordan to host disarmament talks

AMMAN (AP) — Political and military experts from 20 countries, including Israel and Arab states, will meet in Jordan next week to discuss efforts to curb arms proliferation in the Middle East, an official said Friday.

Jordan's delegation to the conference, opening Tuesday at the Dead Sea, will be headed by Abdullah Touqan, an official who took part in negotiations that led to the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty signed on Oct. 26.

Dr. Touqan said Friday that the conference will probe ways of cooperation between Arab and Israeli armies and "confidence-building measures among regional countries" in addition to arms control.

The three-day conference would produce recommendations to be presented to a larger party scheduled to convene in Tunisia next month.

Arms control is one of several multilateral workshops launched as part of the

Middle East peace process three years ago. They include ones on refugees, environment, water and economy.

The aim of these conferences is to eliminate areas of potential conflict and ensure Arab-Israeli cooperation once a peace settlement is achieved.

Jordan signed a treaty with Israel on Oct. 26, becoming the second Arab country after Egypt to make peace with the Jewish state since the conflict developed in 1948.

Israel and the Palestinians have reached a self-rule accord, and are negotiating for a more comprehensive treaty.

But the Syrian and Lebanese tracks of the peace talks remain deadlocked, and the two countries have refused to take part in the multilateral workshops until progress is achieved in their bilateral negotiations with Israel.

Speaking to the Associated Press, Touqan said that at next week's meeting Jordan

will seek information on "Israel's nuclear capabilities."

"We hope that Israel, which has repeatedly denied its possession of nuclear arms, will acknowledge that at the meeting," he said.

Mr. Touqan said the conference also will discuss the "exchange of military information, especially with regard to the nature of weapons each army possesses."

He said participants will "discuss cooperation between naval and ground forces among regional countries and other aspects related to regional security."

Dr. Touqan said next week's meeting will be attended by experts from Jordan, Israel, Yemen, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia, Mauritania, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman, The United Arab Emirates, the Palestinians, Turkey, the United States, Russia, Canada and Australia.

## Hamas protesters slam Arafat over carbomb killing in Gaza

### Israel silent over allegations it engineered blast that killed Jihad leader

GAZA CITY (Agencies) — Some 6,000 Hamas supporters denounced Palestinian National Authority (PNA) Chairman Yasser Arafat for making peace with Israel and challenged him to capture the killers of a fundamentalist leader in an angry march through Gaza City on Friday.

All Palestinian factions, including Mr. Arafat's Fatah, have blamed Israel for the murder of Islamic Jihad's Hani Abed, whose car was blown up on Wednesday.

But Mr. Arafat has faced the wrath of Muslim militants, and Friday's protest followed his flight the previous day under a torrent of abuse from crowds at Abed's funeral, although he later received an apology from Islamic Jihad.

Israel meanwhile kept silent over allegations it was behind the killing, but Israeli commentators said the carbombing packed a powerful message for Palestinians.

The message from the killing was double-edged: Islamic guerrillas could not act with impunity and Mr. Arafat had to clamp down on them.

"Whether the perpetrators are Israelis or Palestinians or both is a matter of pure speculation," said Joseph Alpher, head of the Jaffe Centre for Strategic Studies

in Tel Aviv. "But the message is the same and the message comes on the backdrop of Arafat's lack of political will to deal properly with terrorists — the more you (Arafat) wait, the more such incidents are going to happen," he told Reuters.

Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin told reporters on Friday that Mr. Arafat had to "prevent (self-rule) areas from being used as a launching base for terrorist attacks inside Israel."

Israel, rocked by the kidnapping and death of an Israeli soldier last month and a suicide bus attack in Tel Aviv that killed the bomber and 22 people, has vowed to fight "terrorists" anywhere, anytime.

No one has claimed responsibility for Abed's death. Leaders of the PLO joined Islamic Jihad and Hamas in blaming Israel.

Israeli officials have declined comment.

The Haaretz daily, in an editorial titled "terror and punishment," recalled the way Israel bunted down Palestinians it linked to the massacre of 11 Israelis at the 1972 Munich Olympics and killed them one by one.

In one case, a Moroccan waiter mistaken for a Palesti-

nian guerrilla was shot dead by Israeli intelligence agents in Norway.

"There were cases when the arm of vengeance mistook the identity of its target and there should be regret about it," the editorial said.

"But if Hani Abed was involved in murder and terror operations, he doesn't deserve an apology, rather he got the punishment coming to him because they have sown the wind and they shall reap the whirlwind," it said, quoting the Bible.

Haaretz said in an un-sourced report that Abed had been the head of Islamic Jihad's military wing in the Gaza Strip and planned attacks in which Israelis were killed.

It said Abed, a chemist by training, had been plotting a car bombing.

Palestinians have said Mr. Arafat has refrained from hunting suspected guerrillas in Gaza and the other self-rule enclave of Jericho for fear of revolt. Thousands booed Mr. Arafat out of Abed's funeral on Thursday.

Mr. Alpher said despite that fracas, it was possible for Mr. Arafat and his security forces to put down opponents of his peace deal with Israel

(Continued on page 7)

## Bomb explodes at Amman liquor shop

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — An explosion occurred shortly after midnight outside a liquor store in central Amman Friday. No casualties resulted from the incident.

Within about five minutes after the blast police raced to the scene close to the First Circle, cordoned off the area and blocked entry routes with four or five police vehicles, witnesses said.

Police officers who were seen inspecting the ground in the immediate vicinity refused to comment on the blast, which was heard from a kilometre away.

Police declined comment on the blast.

Police were deployed on roads within a few kilometres radius leading to and from the site, to check drivers' licences and inspect the trunk of cars.

Liquor store owner Samir Akhouri said the blast may have been the work of religious extremists opposed to the sale of alcohol.

More than 20 Islamic fundamentalists are currently being tried by the State Security Court. They are charged with intent to destabilise the Kingdom.

The defendants have been implicated in connection with bomb attacks in 1993 and earlier this year outside liquor stores and cinemas proferring pornographic films.

Alcohol and sexually explicit films are seen by activists as exponents of social corruption infiltrating into the region from the West.

Mr. Fakhoury was seen running to the site around 15 minutes after the blast, while all other vehicles and passers-by were diverted away from it.

Later Friday, Mr. Fakhoury told the Jordan Times that he had owned the shop for four and half years and had never had problems before.

"We don't have any personal enemies," he said.

He added that the blast was thought to have been caused by something explo-



The shatters of an Amman liquor store damaged by a bomb Thursday/Friday midnight (photo by Youssef Allan)

sive contained in a Pepsi bottle.

The damage sustained, although not extensive, included a hole blown through the outside corrugated iron shutter and the wooden door within it. Tens of bottles of liquor were shattered.

Mr. Fakhoury's son said

that they had been notified of the explosion by residents close to the shop and his father had immediately gone to the scene.

He also said that there were no injuries.

Despite the incident and the pungent smell of alcohol inside the shop, business con-

tinued yesterday as normal.

According to a news agency dispatch Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said that investigations were in progress to determine the motive of the attack.

Security around the capital was tightened throughout Friday.

هذه الصفحة الأصلية







## TCC announces lower rates for international calls

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) has decided to reduce charges on international telephone calls on Friday and those made to the occupied territories, the self-rule areas and Israel, according to an announcement Friday.

The TCC board, which met under the chairmanship of Minister of Post and Communications Hashem Dabbas, took the decision in order to enable the largest possible number of citizens to call relatives and friends in the Arab World on the weekend, as well as friends in other countries, said Walid Dweik, acting TCC director general, in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

As of Friday Nov. 11, international daytime calls on Fridays will cost as much as

the usual, reduced rate night calls (between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. the next day), said Mr. Dweik in his statement.

The current daytime call costs JD 2 per minute plus a 10 per cent service charge, and the night-time calls cost JD 1.4 per minute plus a 10 per cent service charge.

Calls made to Israel and the Palestinian lands will cost 900 fils per minute during the daytime hours and 630 fils per minute during the night hours.

The previous rate was JD 1.2 a minute by day or by night.

Mr. Dweik said the TCC has installed a microwave link with Israel enabling Jordanian subscribers to make direct calls, thus justifying the reduction in rates. He said that the rates for

calls to Israel and the Palestinian lands will take effect as of December 1994.

Meanwhile, the TCC board decided that the following groups will be given priority over others when applying for telephone service: banks, the press, news agencies, companies and the tourism sector.

He said that the board decided at an earlier session to also add factories, shareholding companies and regional organisations to the list of applicants for telephone lines.

According to Mr. Dweik, the decision was taken in light of an expected surge in investment areas in the coming stage, noting it was necessary to offer incentives to encourage economic projects.

## Arab regional preparatory meeting for 1995 Beijing conference on women to convene

### Participants to assess key issues for women in Arab region

AMMAN (J.T.) — This week in Amman, the Arab Regional Preparatory Meeting for the Fourth World Conference on Women will convene at the Philadelphia Hotel. The five-day meeting is organised by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), in cooperation with the League of Arab States and the Centre for Arab Women for Training and Research (CAWTAR).

Held under the patronage of Her Royal Highness Princess Basma, chairperson of the Jordanian National Committee for Women and Gertrude Mongella, secretary-general of the Fourth World Conference on Women, the meeting will assess the key issues for women in the Arab region and ultimately provide input to the Arab regional report for the conference which will be held in Sept. 1995 in Beijing.

The Fourth World Confer-

ence on Women will review the advancement of women since 1985 in light of the 1985 Nairobi Forward-Looking Strategies. Thanks to pressure at all levels, women are increasingly gaining crucial access to proper healthcare, education and civil justice, and women's heightened awareness of their common problems has provoked an ESCWA determined mobilisation to fight discrimination and persistent injustices, according to spokeswoman in Amman Vera Azar.

But, just how much have these advances improved the lives of the average woman? And, in view of the sustained social and economic crises facing much of the world today, just how deep is the commitment of government to eliminate discrimination against women are questions which will be studied, said Ms. Azar.

In Sept. 1995, thousands of women and men from around

the world will meet in Beijing for the conference. They will attempt to answer these questions, assessing the progress and the shortcomings of the past two decades and identify action to be taken, she said.

Despite the growing evidence that investments in women have an enormous impact on society as a whole, no one can deny that women continue to face discrimination in social, economic, political and cultural spheres, Ms. Azar said.

According to ESCWA: "Today, only seven of the 184 ambassadors to the United Nations are women. Only four of the 32 U.N. specialised agencies and programmes are headed by women."

In 1993, only six countries had women as heads of government while the average proportion of women in the world's parliaments had dropped to 10 per cent from 12 per cent in 1989.

Three quarters of women over 25 in much of Africa and Asia are illiterate, a much higher rate than for men and a residue of past discrimination. Women account for two thirds of illiterate people in the world.

On average, women receive between 30 and 40 per cent less pay than men for the same work. At the same time, much of women's daily work is unremunerated and the value of household labour unrecorded.

Half a million women, nearly all of them in developing countries, die each year from pregnancy-related causes. Thirty per cent of them are teenagers.

The break-up of families caused by armed conflict, economic difficulties and increased divorce rates, has led to a burgeoning growth in the number of female-headed households. One third of all families worldwide are headed by a woman. These

families are often poor and lack financial support from the fathers of the children. Everywhere, women and children are the poorest among the poor.

Violence against women is recognised to be pervasive across cultures and regions.

In order to achieve meaningful, equitable partnership between women and men, according to the U.N., much more will have to be done to change persistent stereotyped attitudes, to improve the conditions of women around the world and to promote and defend their human rights.

The conference offers governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector and individuals the opportunity to review their efforts and renew their commitment to the theme of the conference: "Action for Equality, Development and Peace," said Ms. Azar.



HER ROYAL HIGHNESS Princess Basma Friday attends deliberations of one of 39 workshops currently held as part of the non-governmental organisations (NGOs) forum, which started here Thursday. The three-day forum is held to prepare for the World Conference on Women scheduled for September 1995 in Beijing. Taking part in the forum are 900 women from 16 Arab countries. The event seeks to crystallise a pan-Arab plan reflecting Arab women's views on issues that will be addressed during the Beijing conference. The recommendations reached during the Amman forum will be presented to an Arab regional preparatory meeting (see separate story) (Petra photo)

### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Sqour returns from Cairo minister meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Social Development Mobammad Sqour Friday returned home after attending meetings of the Executive Bureau of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs which concluded in Cairo Thursday. In an arrival statement, Dr. Sqour, who chaired the bureau's closing session, said participants discussed 27 subjects including a proposal for a pan-Arab strategy to fight drug trafficking and abuse. The strategy will be drafted by the Council of Ministers of Social Affairs, the Council of Arab Health Ministers and the Council of Arab Ministers of Interior, the bureau also discussed a pan-Arab paper to be presented to the World Summit for Social Development, which will be held in Copenhagen in March. Dr. Sqour said, The Executive Bureau's meeting was held to prepare for the meeting of the Council of Arab Ministers of Social Affairs which will be held in Cairo in mid-December.

#### Jordan to attend EU programme

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will take part in a six-day programme on diplomatic work, organised by the European Union (EU) in Brussels. Attending the programme, which starts Monday, will be Wafsi Ayyad and Omar Barakat. The programme includes discussions and lectures about EU policies.

#### Regional seminar to discuss water conservation

AMMAN (Petra) — A four-day regional symposium on water conservation in agriculture will be held here on Nov. 21 with experts from several countries participating. Participants will exchange information and technical information on the use of water for agriculture, and will discuss issues pertaining to the establishment of an information network on the optimal use of water and pesticides in agriculture.

## U.S. university fairs open today

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Linden Educational Services, in cooperation with AMIDEAST in Amman, will hold two days of U.S. educational and university fairs starting today to familiarise high school students with higher education opportunities in the United States, according to an AMIDEAST statement.

Last January, the Linden visit to Jordan consisted of 14 university representatives who met with more than 1,000 prospective students.

In conjunction with AMIDEAST, a variety of activities have been arranged so that more students can take advantage of this opportunity.

According to AMIDEAST Country Director Janine El Tal, "There is a strong tradition of educational cooperation between Jordan and the United States. Last year, more than 3,200 Jordanian students were enrolled in American universities. Over 2,000 of these students were pursuing undergraduate degrees."

Ms. El Tal emphasised, "The United States possesses thousands of universities that offer quality education at all levels. This includes outstanding short-term, intensive training opportunities for professionals, businesses, industries, and government agencies in virtually any field."

The Linden tour offers Jordanians the unique opportunity to personally meet with representatives from a

number of excellent institutions.

Activities begin today with a series of private visits to various Jordanian secondary schools.

A university fair will be held from 5-8 p.m. at the Jordan Inter-Continental Hotel. This event is free and open to the public.

It will provide an occasion for students and their families to meet directly with the representatives and to learn about the degrees and programmes offered by their respective universities, said the statement.

On Sunday, from 9 a.m.-6:30 p.m., AMIDEAST is sponsoring a free educational fair at the American Centre of the U.S. embassy.

Also open to the public, this fair will feature information sessions on studying in the United States, career planning, applying to U.S. colleges, predeparture orientation to the United States, graduate studies, and financial aid.

Students will also be able to meet with the visiting university representatives as well as officials from AMIDEAST, the United States Information Service, the American Language Centre, the United States Agency for International Development, the Sky Institute of Technology, and the American University of Beirut Alumni Club. EIS Language Centres and Jordanian Alumni Society Graduates of U.S. Universities.

## Seminar to look at opportunities in Jordanian, S. African business

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Amman Chamber of Industry and the South African embassy in Jordan Monday are organising a seminar here entitled "Jordan-South Africa Business Opportunities," according to an announcement Friday.

The seminar is designed to familiarise a visiting economic delegation from South Africa with the Jordanian economy and prospects for expanded trade, according to chamber chairman Khalid Abu Hassan.

Mr. Abu Hassan, who has invited the Jordanian business community to the meeting, said the four-member South African delegation is made up of representatives of the Department of Foreign Affairs, the National African Federation of Chambers of Commerce, the South African Chamber of Business and the Department of Trade and Industry.

Meanwhile, the Chamber

of Industry is preparing for two industrial exhibitions to be opened in Jordan to introduce the public to Jordanian manufactured products.

A statement Friday said that one of the two exhibitions will be held in Zarqa to mark His Majesty King Hussein's birthday on Nov. 14 and the other will be organised in Amman on Jordan's Independence Day anniversary on May 25.

The Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) announced Friday that it will organise a meeting with a 10-member American economic delegation at Amman Philadelphia Hotel on Tuesday.

A JBA statement said the delegation represents the Department of Commerce, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, the Department of State, the Department of the Treasury and the Export/Import bank.

The statement said the

meeting assumes a great significance coming in the wake of a visit to Jordan by U.S. President Bill Clinton and the conclusion of the Middle East and North Africa Economic Conference in Casablanca.

Hamdi Tabbaa JBA chairman is to be one of the main speakers at the meeting and is expected to outline future cooperation between the private sectors in the United States and Jordan in light of U.S. pledges to help Jordan's economy, said the statement.

Representatives of the Jordanian business community have been invited to attend the meeting and to exchange views on prospects for cooperation in economic and trade fields, it added.

The meeting will be the second of its kind this year, following a visit to Jordan last January by U.S. Commerce Secretary Ronald Brown accompanied by a large business delegation.

## Jordan still a target, despite signing peace treaty — Obeidat

AMMAN (J.T.) — Senator Ahmad Obeidat has underlined that Jordan is still being targeted politically, economically, culturally and psychologically despite the fact that it had signed a peace treaty with Israel.

In a lecture delivered at the Arab Forum last week, Mr. Obeidat, a former prime minister, called for safeguarding national unity and protecting the domestic front in the face of challenges confronting Jordan.

He called on all Jordanians to shoulder their various responsibilities to confront the new realities in the aftermath of the peace treaty and to work in an organised manner to adapt to the requirements of the coming stage to reduce the repercussions of "the shock of peace" and to benefit from the prevailing national, regional and international conditions to the maximum.

"If dangers are inherent in the complications of the stages that follow signing of treaties, we will be in an unenviable position, especially if there were no national will determined to protect national unity and the democratisation process..." he said.

Mr. Obeidat called for creating a multi-dimensional, integrated plan to enable the Kingdom to face the coming challenges, saying this plan should be based on modernising the government's administrative institutions and enhancing public participation in the decision making process.

He demanded that work start on establishing modern



Ahmad Obeidat

on the basis of justice and providing equal opportunities to all and where law and order prevail," said the senator in his lecture, titled "Jordan — In Where?"

He affirmed that the state institutions should shoulder their responsibilities and commit themselves to the Constitution and the National Charter instead of wasting time in creating "personalised institutions and enhancing the centres of strength and adopting tribal and factional symbols that are competing to achieve their personal gains at the expense of the country and the citizens' constitutional, legal and human rights."

He said the Jordanian people have for long awaited the liberation of their occupied land and now that the land is liberated, Jordan's main priority becomes to "liberate citizens from fear and poverty and to immunise them against all forms of influence through work on protecting public freedoms, achieving social justice and safeguarding national unity in all circumstances and conditions."

He said this is the responsibility of the constitutional institutions as it is the responsibility of political parties and economic and social institutions.

Mr. Obeidat also called on Jordan to reach an agreement with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) on the final form of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and to agree on the question of Jerusalem, and warned that the goals of the Zionist, colonial project in the Arab region are still alive.

## 21 killed in flashfloods

(Continued from page 1)

tion of small bridges. In Tafleeb, the storm was reported to have caused damage to roads and culverts and flooding of homes.

Until late Thursday the Amman-Jerash road was reported closed because of landslides along parts of the highway. According to a PSD announcement, many of the roads in the northern Badia region were also closed because of the flood.

Nine people killed in Zarqa as a result of the flood were identified: Dua'a Mohammad Fayyih (9), Ghaith Mohammad Fayyadh (11), Alaa' Abdullah Fayyadh (4), Ribam Mohammad Fayyadh (14), Areej Ahmad Yousef (2), Sabah Ahmad Faraja (16), Khadija Yousef Faraj (26), and Zuhra Salem Sweilem Khawaldeh (30). In addition, a nine-year-old child whose identity was not known was also killed.

The two killed in Madaba were identified as Awad Seifan Nofal Al Zahven and Sifha Hassan Al Bawarid. In Mafraq four people were killed, but the identity of only two was known: Mohammad Sari Jamil and Usama Mohammad Abu Jasem.

In other developments, the Jordan Valley Authority (JVA) was on Friday cleaning the King Abdullah Canal from sediments and rocks drawn in by the floods.

JVA Secretary General Hisham Al Shoubul said the authority's personnel and machinery were put on full alert along the canal, which

extends from Al Adassiyeh in the northern Jordan Valley to South Shuneh, to remove rocks and other sediments.

He said the authority had finished clearing the canal in Al Arida area where the flow of water from north to south was completely blocked by rocks and was clearing another spot near Al Karameh town.

Mr. Shoubul said the JVA was forced to increase the amount of water pumped from the canal to Amman. The authority also started pumping water from the canal in Wadi Al Araba dam. Usually, the authority pumps water from the dam into the canal.

Mr. Shoubul said that the floods had replenished water in the King Talal Dam, the largest in the Kingdom, as eight million cubic metres of water were collected by the dam.

Mr. Shoubul said that at the peak hour of the storm water was flowing into the dam, north of Amman, at a rate of 113 cubic metres per second, dropping to 26 cubic metres by Friday evening.

He said water flowing into the dam, mainly from Al Zarqa River, has increased the volume of water in the reservoir, which can take almost 100 million cubic metres, to 24.7 million cubic metres.

The quantities received Thursday and Friday, he noted, will help improve the quality of water held by the dam and reduce salinity.

## Death toll in Egypt near 550

(Continued from page 1)

Manqabad, where refugees from Dronka and from areas hit by floods are staying until they can go home.

The camp is about seven kilometres north of Dronka, where the local people are accusing the authorities of negligence at the fuel depot and delays in providing relief.

Presidential guards sealed off the village and no reporters were initially let in after Mr. Mubarak's arrival in nearly Assiut. There was no explanation for his decision not to go there.

Later in the Dronka area, residents expressed anger at the failure of the president to visit them.

"Where is the president? Why did the people die? Because of the government's petrol. Why didn't he come to see us?" asked 17-year-old Salah Sayed.

Prime Minister Atef Sedki and five ministers visited Dronka on Thursday but villagers complained early on Friday that they had still not seen the compensation which was promised.

"Nothing has come, just some blankets which arrived yesterday," said Mohammad Hussein, a salesman who lives in Dronka, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. Two hundred displaced people spent the night in the camp at Manqabad but thousands of others slept in the street or with friends and relatives.

The government has played down the death toll and says it has done everything possible to help the victims. Mr. Mubarak tried to reas-

sure the displaced people at the camp, telling them they would receive compensation for their losses, according to local officials who were present.

Majnr-General Kamal Mandour, a civil defence officer from Cairo, told reporters in Dronka on Friday that 260 people died in the fuel depot fire and the floods in the village.

But villagers disputed the figure. "That's not true. Five thousand people died in Dronka," said Mohammad Akmad, a farmer.

"It's not true, not true," echoed other villagers. Hospitals in the Assiut area say they have received more than 320 corpses from the village, where floods on Wednesday morning overturned tanker wagons full of fuel which then ignited.

Mr. Mandour said the death toll might yet rise as rescuers search the devastated part of the village house by house. Other corpses have not reached the hospitals and about 80 people have been killed in flash floods in other parts of southern Egypt, local officials said.

The latest discoveries in Dronka included 21 corpses from a mosque where they had tried to take shelter and a whole family of 15 which suffocated to death after climbing up to the fifth floor of the building next to their house.

Villagers buried 45 dead in a mass grave on Thursday evening and on Friday dozens of women in black sat against the cemetery wall weeping and wailing for their relatives.

At noon prayers across the country, congregations said special prayers for the victims of the disaster.

The land around Dronka now looks like a World War II battleground, with blackened trees sticking out of a sea of mud.

One pool of fuel caught fire on Friday as workers nearby went from house to house looking for bodies. Flames leapt 10 metres high and it took 15 minutes to extinguish them.

One group of workers waded through pools of mud looking for the body of a seven-year-old girl believed to have drowned.

An elderly man, Abdul Shafi Shaaban, arrived with a piece of burnt human flesh wrapped in cloth and said it was all he could recover from the body of one of his grandsons.

He put it silently in the back of an ambulance and then told reporters he had lost his wife, his children and his grandchildren in the disaster.

In Cairo the opposition newspaper Al Wafd criticised the government for portraying the disaster as an act of God.

"It is nonsense to blame fate for our own shortcomings and negligence," it said in a front-page editorial.

The state has a duty to prepare to deal with these natural disasters at any time and in any place," it added. Military sources said two Saudi planes had arrived at an airbase outside Cairo with relief supplies. Two Egyptian aircraft were flying to Assiut on Friday with food and blankets for them, the sources added.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

- ☆ Poetry recital by Haya Hwaik Adiyeh at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 6:00 p.m.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Ahmad Na'wash at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.
- ☆ Exhibition of paintings by Salam Kan'an at the Balkas Art Gallery, Fuhis.
- ☆ Exhibition of art by Annie Sakicab at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artist Ibrahim Al Abdali at Orfali Art Gallery.
- ☆ Exhibition of art by Adnan Al Sharif at Ab'ad Art Gallery.
- ☆ Exhibition of oil paintings by Imran Khaleel and Fawzi Rasoni at Baladna Art Gallery.

مكتبة الامم المتحدة







## Bosnian Serbs prepare for martial law

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serb politicians and military commanders met Friday to consider imposition of martial law across their territory after suffering battlefield setbacks by Muslims and Croats, informed sources said.

"From tomorrow there will be a full state of war," Bosnian Serb President and Supreme Armed Forces Commander Radovan Karadzic told Reuters Thursday.

This would include such measures as mass mobilisation and placing the economy on a war footing.

The self-proclaimed Bosnian Serb Republic is not officially on a permanent war

footing although it has effectively been a military state during 31 months of fighting against Bosnian independence from former Yugoslavia.

Mr. Karadzic began wearing combat fatigues in public for the first time a week ago and his title of supreme commander is being emphasised in the secessionist Serb media.

Informed sources in Pale said the decree on all-out war implied suspension of the Bosnian Serb parliament which led rejection of an international peace plan for Bosnia despite urging from Belgrade to accept the blueprint.

Angered at their refusal, Serbia's President Slobodan Milosevic ended all political and military support of his separatist Serb in Bosnia.

Military analysts in Belgrade question the effectiveness of what they see as desperate moves by Mr. Karadzic after Mr. Milosevic dealt a body blow to Bosnian Serb morale. A lack of fuel has hampered the movement of his forces, especially armoured units.

The Bosnian Serbs have in the last two weeks lost significant stretches of territory to Muslims in northwestern Bosnia, the town of Kupres has fallen and they have come under pressure at Trnovo, south of Sarajevo.

In the northwest, Mr. Karadzic's forces have fallen back in the face of a Muslim breakout from the Bihac enclave that has seen the Serbs driven from 250 square kilometres of territory.

In the latest of a series of defiant utterances since the Bosnian Serbs' military setbacks began, Mr. Karadzic said his forces had been fighting with one hand tied behind their backs.

Mr. Karadzic promised: "We are going to liberate all our lost territory."

At the United Nations in New York, the General Assembly voted 97 to zero with 61 abstentions to lift the

international embargo on Bosnia. But the resolution was non-binding and the vote signalled a potential setback for U.S. hopes of pushing a binding measure through the Security Council.

Among the 15 Security Council members voting in the assembly, only five — the United States, Pakistan, Oman, Djibouti and Rwanda — supported lifting the arms ban while 10 abstained. Only the Security Council has the power to lift the arms embargo and it needs a minimum of nine votes and no veto for a resolution to be adopted.

Sarajevo rejoiced Friday after news that Bosnian Muslim and Croat soldiers had captured Kupres.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic, speaking on Sarajevo Radio, told his troops their victories were the result of "your ability, courage and your love of Bosnia, of your people and freedom" rather than weaponry "because the aggressor still enjoys great supremacy both in quantity and quality of weapons."

Earlier, his vice president Ejup Ganic, had said: "The fall of Kupres is very important. It breaks the Serb myth of invincibility with them claiming they've never lost a town."

"It's about time we took something back and I think it's the beginning of justice," said 41-year-old Enes Kosovac, a shopkeeper in Sarajevo.

Croatian Radio said Bosnian Croat militia entered Kupres after 1 p.m. (1200 GMT) as Serb soldiers withdrew in disarray.

Croatian Television showed pictures of Kupres with Croat soldiers in the streets and Croat flags hanging from buildings.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe said Thursday



A Bosnian Croat soldier (right) displays a badge from the Bosnian Serb army as his comrades unfurl a Serbian flag after the troops took the abandoned Serbian stronghold in the Kupres region, following fierce fighting the day before (AFP photo)



Bosnian troops from the Croatian Defence Council march into the village of Ravno in the Kupres region following yesterday's victory in the fierce battle against Bosnian Serb

forces who had kept this area a stronghold since 1992 (AFP photo)

## Italy coalition allies on collision course again

ROME (R) — Tensions in Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi's coalition government flared again Friday when the National Alliance said it would block a Northern League proposal for electoral reform.

A League plan to introduce a two-round voting system for Italy's 20 regions was on the agenda at a Friday afternoon cabinet meeting (1400 GMT) but the hard-right National Alliance made clear its opposition to the measure.

The League's Francesco Speroni, minister for institutional reforms, drew up the proposal on a key issue for the federalist party.

"It's not certain that the cabinet has to approve the Speroni proposal," the National Alliance ministers do not agree with the Speroni proposal," party leader Gianfranco Fini said at a book launch.

Cabinet Secretary Gianni Letta sought to play down the row.

"I don't think we are going to have a government crisis," he said. "I'm confident we'll find a solution which is satisfactory to all involved."

Mr. Fini's National Alliance fears a two-round voting system would be to the advantage of the maverick League which could forge alliances on the left or right of the political spectrum once it had seen the outcome of the first round.

Electoral reform remains a key issue in Italy after national elections last March under a new system failed to produce the kind of clear result many observers wanted.

The spat is the latest in a series of rows between the League and its partners in the Berlusconi government which took office six months ago.

It comes at a delicate mo-

ment as Italy's crucial 1995 austerity budget has just begun what is expected to be a bumpy ride through parliament.

The League unnerved partners last week when it joined forces with the opposition in parliamentary committee meetings to force some amendments to a budget which plans to trim Italy's huge public deficit by 50 trillion lire (\$32 billion).

On Thursday, the League presented a further series of amendments to the budget including one which would cut revenue from a planned amnesty for Italians who have violated building regulations.

League leader Umberto Bossi Thursday pledged to back the budget but plans to ask a weekend party congress for a mandate to demand a meeting of coalition leaders to assess the government's health and decide if it should

carry on.

National Alliance leader Fini said Thursday that getting the budget approved by parliament was the priority and must come before any debate on the future of the government.

"We are prepared to clarify all that needs clarifying but after the budget has been approved," Mr. Fini said after a meeting with Premier Berlusconi.

Parliament must approve the budget by the end of the year.

Meanwhile, a former Italian government minister who has evaded capture by anti-corruption police for the past week Friday said he would turn himself in.

Meanwhile, a former Italian government minister who has evaded capture by anti-corruption police for the past week Friday said he would turn himself in.

## Fighting reported near Angolan rebel stronghold

LUANDA (R) — Angolan government troops and UNITA rebels were fighting west of the guerrilla stronghold of Huambo Friday, said sources said.

They said the city was calm but a Portuguese television report, monitored by the BBC, said the population was fleeing.

UNITA rebels said Friday they had stopped the Angolan government advance on its capital Huambo 30 kilometres from the city in the central highlands.

UNITA Radio, monitored in the island state of Sao

Tome and Principe, also said a government air raid had failed to hit its transmitters in Jamba but damaged a hospital, wounding several dozen patients.

The two sides initiated a peace accord Monday aimed at ending 19 years of civil war in the former Portuguese colony.

But a ceasefire is not due to take effect until the agreement is formally signed by Angolan President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos and UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi in the Zambian capital Lusaka in mid-November.

The radio said rebel forces stopped a government advance on Huambo 30 kilometres from the city but gave no details of fighting there. The name of the exact location was obscured by poor reception.

Aid workers in Huambo, in radio contact with colleagues in the Angolan capital Luanda, said government forces advancing from the coast had struck within 25 kilometres of Huambo Tuesday but had not attacked the city itself.

UNITA also said two gov-

ernment MiG-24 jets attacked its transmitters in Jamba near the Namibian border Thursday. The bombs fell wide but damaged an orthopaedic hospital instead and wounded several dozen patients.

Elsewhere in Angola, the radio said rebel forces had killed 10 government soldiers and destroyed an armoured car in two days of fighting at Casolo, in the northeastern diamond mining province of Lunda Sul.

The reports could not be independently confirmed.

## Li leaves Seoul with pledge to support Geneva accord

SEOUL (AFP) — Chinese Premier Li Peng left here Friday after a five-day visit during which he pledged to help implement the Oct. 21 Geneva accord on North Korea's nuclear programme.

"In a way," unique and appropriate for China," the Chinese government welcomes the nuclear agreement between the United States and North Korea and believes it will help ease the regional political situation,"

Mr. Li told a televised press conference before flying home from the resort island of Cheju.

"China hopes to see this agreement implemented and will... take action to support the implementation in a way

appropriate for China," he said, without going into specifics.

Diplomats here speculated his pledge had been outlined in more detail in private talks

between Mr. Li Peng and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam, as well as between Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and counterpart Han Sung-Joo.

The diplomats also said that China — whose policy of diplomatic "equidistance" towards Seoul and Pyongyang Mr. Li reaffirmed — may agree to take 8,000 spent plutonium-rich fuel rods from North Korea for disposal.

Under the Geneva agree-

ment, the rigidly-isolated North Korean regime agreed to halt its suspect nuclear programme in exchange for the safer light water reactors, fuel supplies to replace lost energy from its closed down reactors and eventual diplomatic recognition from the United States.

Pyeongyang's Foreign Ministry said this week that the North had already taken steps to comply with the provisions of the accord.

Under the Geneva agree-

## Sri Lanka candidate wants rebel disarmament before talks

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lanka's opposition presidential candidate, Srimala Disanayake, said Friday that if she were elected she would insist that Tamil rebels lay down their arms before she would talk peace with them.

"I want the tigers to renounce terrorism. I would like the people of Jaffna to throw up a democratic leadership with whom the government can have a dialogue," the softly spoken, white-clad Disanayake told her first news conference.

The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) has been fighting a 11-year-old war for a separate state in the island's north and east for the minority Tamil community. They control the Jaffna peninsula in the north.

Mrs. Disanayake was chosen by the United National Party to replace her husband, Gamini, who was blown up by a suicide bomber last month as he campaigned for president.

Gamini Disanayake and 53 others were killed in a bomb blast at an election rally in Colombo on Oct. 24.

Police suspect the tigers for the bombing, a view Srimala Disanayake shares.

"They killed my husband because they did not want him to be president," she said.

Mrs. Disanayake said she would negotiate with the rebels on the basis of a 1987 accord signed with India, which her husband helped to negotiate, devolving power to the provinces.

She said peace talks initiated by Prime Minister Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga, her opponent, and the favourite, in the presidential race, were under taken without any planning and under pressure from the rebels.

"She did exactly as they wanted her to," Mrs. Disanayake said.

A second round of talks scheduled for Oct. 24 was postponed after Gamini Disanayake's death.

Mrs. Disanayake said the party had chosen her over other candidates because she was most suitable to carry out her husband's policies and work.

"I have worked with him in politics for 24 years. I have

discussed his policies, plans, and vision for the future," she said.

Asked how she would exercise her considerable powers as president, which include dismissing the prime minister without a reason, Mrs. Disanayake said, "I would be reasonable, fair and just in my actions."

She said she hoped for peaceful co-existence between herself and the People's Alliance government if she won, adding that she planned to keep some cabinet portfolios for herself.

At the same time, Mrs. Disanayake said, the constitution had to be amended to give fewer powers to the president and make the president responsible to parliament.

## Bodies of Western hostages returned from Cambodia

PHNOM PENH (R) — Three plywood coffins bearing the bodies of Western hostages executed by the Khmer Rouge were repatriated from Cambodia Friday after a short airport ceremony attended by diplomats and senior government ministers.

"This event demonstrates once again the horrifying brutality and callousness of the Khmer Rouge," said Australian Ambassador Tony Kevin.

Ambassador from the hostages' home countries of Australia, Britain and France — along with U.S. Ambassador Charles Twining — observed a minute of silence before the wreath-covered caskets were loaded onto a commercial flight for Bangkok.

Cambodian Foreign Minister Ung Huot, former Foreign Minister Prince Norodom Sirivudh and Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs Uch Kim An stood in front of the caskets before they were loaded on the plane and bowed their heads in homage.

British Mark Slater, 28, Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, from France and David Wilson, 29, an Australian, were taken hostage on July 26 after Khmer Rouge guerrillas

ambushed a train in southern Kampot province.

The three men are believed to have been executed by their Khmer Rouge captors in late September. Their remains were found in graves in Kampot Tuesday.

Mr. Braquet's father, Jean-Claude, hugged his arms tightly as he watched the coffins being loaded onto the plane.

Three floral wreaths from the Cambodian government were placed on the coffins. Embassy consular staff supervised the loading of the caskets into a Kampuchea Airlines 737.

In a statement to reporters after the ceremony, Mr. Kevin reiterated the Australian embassy had done all it could to secure the lives of the hostages.

"David's family will know that we in the embassy worked tirelessly over the past three months to try and bring him back safely, but unfortunately our efforts were in vain."

"I believe and I hope many Australians will believe that it emphasises again the need to help the Cambodian people eliminate this terrible menace — the Khmer Rouge," he said.

The Australian envoy said it was essential the Cambo-

dian government "make every effort to bring the killers to justice."

The British and French ambassadors made no statement.

One of the last passengers to board was Mr. Braquet's father, who was briefly embraced by French embassy officials before walking up the steps into the plane. He did not look back.

The nominal leader of Cambodia's Khmer Rouge rebels appears to have distanced himself from the country's latest hostage tragedy.

In a letter written before the bodies were recovered this week from graves in southern Cambodia, Khieu Samphan implied that the government should bear full responsibility for the hostages' fate.

Mr. Samphan's letter, released by the royal palace Friday, was dated Oct. 31 and addressed to King Norodom Sihanouk. It did not acknowledge the hostages' deaths and refers to them as "missing."

"As Your Majesty, the King, has already been informed, I've tried from afar to instruct (the captors), but I've not been informed of the

result," he said.

But he implied that the government, which surrounded Vine Mountain with troops during the hostage crisis, should bear responsibility for the trio's fate.

"Those who cause and continue the flame of war to destroy national reconciliation and peace in Cambodia must be personally and fully responsible for all the consequences of their policy," Mr. Samphan said.

In a reference to shelling of the base, he added: "They (troops) responded with multiple rockets, tanks and artillery. They killed people repeatedly, making the problem even more complicated."

"Countries that share implementing this policy will receive adverse consequences as a result," he warned.

Cambodian army and diplomatic sources believe the Westerners were shot dead in late September. Three ethnic Vietnamese and two Cambodian hostages are also said to have been killed.

This was Cambodia's second tragedy involving Western hostages this year. The remains of an Australian and two British hostages were found in September.

## Ghali does not rule out Russian peacekeepers for Karabakh

YEREVAN (AFP) — The U.N. secretary general said Friday that U.N. peacekeepers would be best for policing a ceasefire in a separatist Armenian enclave of Azerbaijan, but did not rule out the use of Russian-led troops.

Asked if Russian soldiers would be appropriate as peacekeepers in the former Soviet Republic of Azerbaijan, Boutros Ghali said: "I prefer that the United Nations takes the responsibility of peacekeeping operations."

"But if the Security Council of the United Nations is not able to provide the peacekeeping forces, then the second (option) is to give the mandate to a group of states," he said at a joint press conference with Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrossian.

He did not give details, but a largely Russian force under

the banner of the Commonwealth of Independent States, a Russian-dominated coalition of ex-Soviet states, is already patrolling a ceasefire in Georgia.

The six-month-old ceasefire in Nagorno-Karabakh, an enclave situated inside Azerbaijan but populated by an ethnic Armenian majority, was brokered by Russia and Russia has proposed sending its own peacekeeping force.

Azerbaijan strongly resists allowing Russian peacekeepers, saying their arrival would cement the ethnic Armenians' war gains.

Azerbaijan has pressured the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) to deploy an "international" peacekeeping force to separate the warring sides in Nagorno-Karabakh. This appeared to have paid off

after the CSCE proposed a 1,600-2,000 strong peacekeeping force earlier this month — the first in the CSCE's short history.

Dr. Ghali indicated that the solution to the conflict, in which 20,000 people have died in six years, would have to be solved at a local level.

The United Nations required respect of existing borders, but: "If two countries agree to changes in the borders then the United Nations has to respect this agreement," he said.

Dr. Ghali backtracked on earlier statements made during a visit to Azerbaijan that called for the "territorial integrity of the member states and the immediate withdrawal of Armenian troops from Azerbaijan territory."

The U.N. Secretary General denied reports he had labelled Armenia the

aggressor in the war or that he had told Armenia to withdraw from the enclave of Nagorno-Karabakh. "I never made those declarations," he said.

Mr. Ter-Petrossian said that a conflict between the CSCE and Russian authorities seriously endangered the ceasefire and called on the two parties to come to an agreement before submitting peace plans.

"It is really a dangerous situation. This can prolong the process of negotiations and endanger a viable ceasefire," he said.

Dr. Ghali began his tour of Transcaucasia in Azerbaijan, then flew to Georgia, followed by Armenia. Later Friday he was to go to Moldova, where Russians in the east of the country have declared themselves independent of the Moldovan government.

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "القدس الشريف"



## Jordan Times

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## Democracy plays the hand

**POLITICAL PARTIES** which have opted to oppose the peace treaty with Israel may now be calling for a referendum to test its acceptability, especially after it has become almost certain that they cannot defeat it in Parliament. Of course, in principle, there is nothing wrong in holding a nationwide referendum on this issue as long as such an exercise is viewed in proper perspective.

To begin with, there is nothing in the Constitution or the laws of the country that call for a plebiscite every time the government enters into a binding treaty. It must be remembered that in a legal context all treaties that the government ratifies are of the same national importance. True, this treaty is far-reaching and covers issues of strategic importance to the country as a whole, yet the legal principle remains essentially the same. So notwithstanding the political and economic implications of the treaty, it remains bound by the same legal considerations.

There is an obvious legal requirement that Parliament acts on any such treaties and accepts or rejects them after thorough deliberations. Parliament is in effect taking this route and is currently seized with the draft law in an effort to examine all its features and implications. Parliament is after all representative of the Jordanian people and parliamentarians, who are now opposing the treaty, were themselves elected freely and democratically by their constituencies. They should therefore be the last to complain or ask for any other procedure that aims to bypass them. In the final analysis, we have to accept and live with the fact that some of us, for one reason or another, are against signing a peace accord with Israel. We must accept the right of all shades of opinion on this issue. But division of opinion must not mean that the minority's view can stand in the way of the majority's view and prevent the country from moving forward on solemn undertakings that purport to advance the overall national interests of the entire country. The opposition is thus called upon to reciprocate the respect that the majority has accorded them by letting Parliament debate the subject freely and pronounce its judgement on it in due course.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

NOW THAT the Foreign Affairs Committee at the Lower House of Parliament has approved of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty one can safely say that the treaty is certain to be endorsed by the House and become binding for Jordan, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily. A majority approval of the treaty should be respected by the opposition minority and by all sectors that still oppose the peace with Israel since the representatives of the Jordanian people have opted to approve it, said the paper. To face the new stage in our history, said the paper, national unity will be of paramount importance so that Jordan can deal objectively and wisely with the coming developments and the implementation of the treaty. There is no doubt that the treaty has its own positive and negative aspects to different sections of the public, but national unity should serve as a common denominator, pooling everyone's resources and all potential for the common good of the country, the paper added. Once the Parliament has approved the treaty the whole country should respect the decision because the Jordanians have no other alternative to safeguarding their national institutions if they are keen on protecting their democracy, concluded the paper.

TAHER AL ADWAN, a columnist in Al Dustour daily, dwelt on Washington's policies regarding the Islamists and the Muslim World, noting that these are exposed to tactical changes depending on America's interests. The writer noted that while Washington supported the Afghans and the Bosnians as well as the Islamic fundamentalists in Algeria, stands firm in the face of Hamas, Hizbollah and Iran. It is clear that Washington has an interest in supporting the Bosnian, for instance, because such support is against the wishes of the European nations with which America is in constant rivalry over regions of influence, but it is against Hamas and Hizbollah — which are fighting for freedom — simply because these two factions are foes of Israel, the staunchest American ally in the region. The writer said that as long as the United States is involved in economic and other forms of rivalry with other nations, one has to expect a changeable U.S. foreign policy.

### Jordanian Perspective

## Jordan makes strong case in Casablanca

JORDAN has presented its case for investment in the Kingdom to the Casablanca summit quite well, judging from the set of documents and presentations that its delegation, headed by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, submitted to the conference. Only time can tell how successful the Jordanian effort was, but the Kingdom did impress the participants in the conference of the favourable atmosphere that exists in the country for foreign investments.

Indeed, the bulk of the projects that Jordan presented to the conference was related to infrastructure, highways, hospitals, schools, power plants, tourism facilities and water resources and distribution. These projects, by definition, are supposed to be government-sponsored and built. As such, given Jordan's financial situation, it is only fair that the Kingdom expects foreign sources to provide financing for them under favourable terms.

The other side of the equation is that these projects mean making it more attractive to foreign investors to invest in the Kingdom through expansion and modernisation of infrastructure facilities available here. Essentially, infrastructure improvement goes hand in hand with attracting investment.

Quite simply, one cannot expect a foreigner or local to invest millions in an industrial project in the middle of the desert where the raw material is available without proper access roads or power and water availability.

Hopefully, we will soon hear from our delegation that went to Casablanca as to how successful the Jordanian effort was in terms of attracting immediate investments in the country. Jordan has no shortage of administrative expertise and that is what was highlighted in Casablanca.

By and large it was a surprise for many participants there to see the Jordanian delegation was armed with well-organised documents and presentations in total contrast to many other Third World countries which usually come up with make-to-do support and attend conferences for the sake of attending.

But that does not mean that the job has been done. Jordan has promised a lot to potential investors in the country and it also bears the responsibility to ensure that those promises are fulfilled, whether in terms of offering higher incentives to foreign capital or eliminating the last trace of red tape.

It is not an impossible task either. All it takes is a dramatic fundamental change in the mindset of our bureaucrats dealing with promotion of investments. While some would say that it is easier said than done, the reality is that without such a shift, Jordan cannot simply hope that investments would come in automatically.

The bureaucrats have to realise that it is indeed a historic make-or-break point for Jordan. The emerging state of peace and stability in the region has sparked high interest among international giants in investing in the region. They are serious and it is up to Jordanian officials to ensure that that seriousness is stroked positively into practical action. We simply cannot afford to have a single negative point in our approach. It is not simply enough that our bureaucrats sit in their offices awaiting investors to approach them. They have to go out and make an effort to bring in the investors and ensure that nothing stands in the way of even slightly discouraging to investors. That is where our success lies.

In this context, the Amman conference in mid-1995 as a

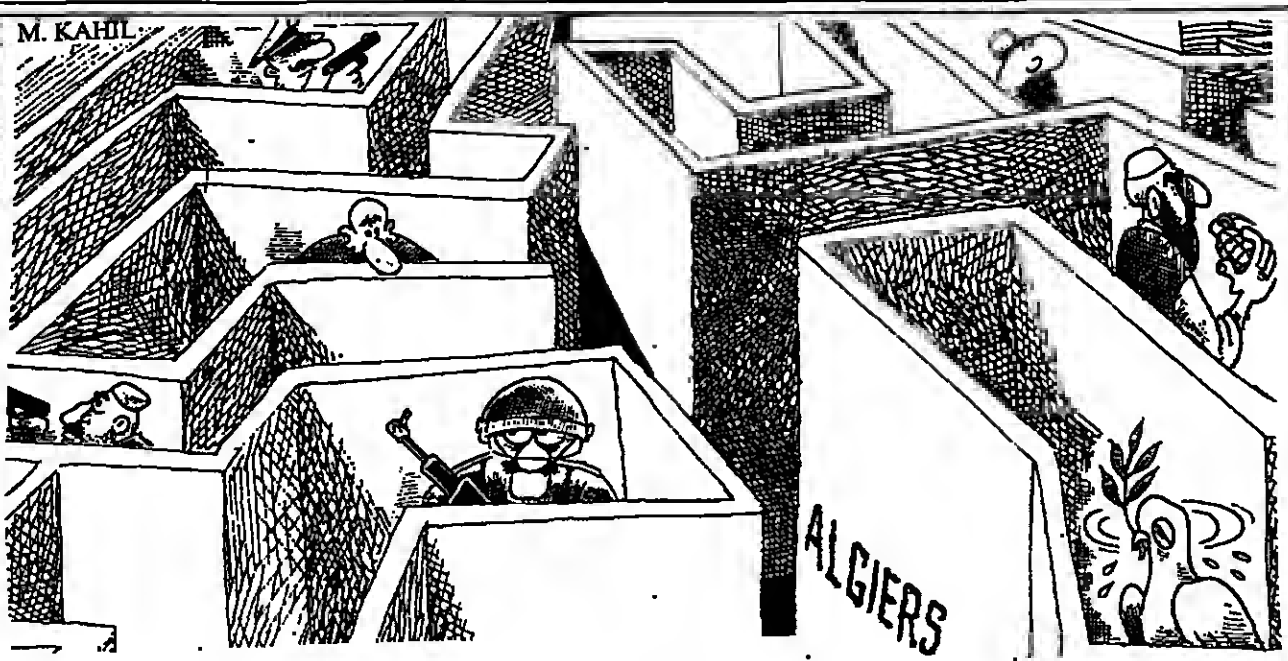
follow-up to the Casablanca summit is of paramount importance. We have several in-built advantages by hosting the conference. First of all we are in homeground and we could prove it to everyone that we mean what we say. Second, investors could have a firsthand assessment of how the ground is like in Jordan for their precious capital. Third, the very organisation of the Amman conference would be a testimony to Jordanian expertise and abilities.

For all purposes, the Amman conference will be the actual point of takeoff for many proposals that were discussed in Casablanca. As such, the meeting assumes a higher significance.

That is where the real challenge lies. It precludes any thought of failure. Work has to start today for the Amman conference. Those throughout our administrative structure who fail to appreciate the challenge and rise to the requirements of the day will have to make for others who can do the job with the seriousness and dedication that it needs.

No doubt, our leadership is fully aware of the situation. How far that awareness spreads down to the middle and lower ranks of our bureaucracy is a different matter altogether. By and large we see a handful of serious and devoted people in the various departments of the ministries and related organisations and they are trying to do the impossible with others around them who are there for the sake of being there. This is an area which requires very close scrutiny.

Quite simply, the "dead wood" in our bureaucracy is too high to be tolerated. The situation should have been addressed a long time ago, but it is never too late.



### THE WEEK IN PRINT

## People must feel the peace dividend

Reviewed by Elias Nasrallah

THE PEACE treaty continued to assume prominence in the editorials and columnists' articles of the local Arabic press in the past week. The situation in the occupied Arab lands, the Casablanca conference and domestic affairs were also covered by the press.

The majority with which the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Lower House of Parliament approved the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty gives rise to belief that the agreement will be endorsed by both Houses of Parliament, said Al Dustour daily. Indeed, the treaty has already won the approval of the various public sectors, which have been displaying their opinion through marches and banners all over the country, said the daily.

That the Arab countries have accepted the idea of the Madrid conference three years ago to reach peace with Israel based on U.N. resolutions and held negotiations with Israeli delegations, it was natural for them to conclude agreements on peace and securing Arab rights, said Ibrahim Al Absi in Al Ra'i daily. The Jordan-Israeli peace treaty came as no surprise to any one, said the writer. For this reason, he said, the Jordan-Israeli treaty is not a separate treaty nor can it prove that the Jordanians have turned their backs to the other Arab parties.

Reflecting on the U.S. role in the peacemaking process, a columnist in Al Dustour said that U.S. President Bill Clinton has exceeded all norms in his display of support for the Jewish state and promised to continue America's aid to Israel. Washington's support for Israel is something that raises no eyebrows in the Arab World, but it is most surprising to see the Arabs resorting to Washington to play the role of a neutral mediator between the Arab countries and Israel, said the writer.

What is even more surprising is to see Arabs expecting from Washington to exercise pressure on the Jewish state to grant them their rights and fulfill their requirements of justice. Arriving at peace does not merely mean signing a document ending four de-

pressed readiness to help the Israelis to find the perpetrators. Earlier, the Palestine authority had shown that it was ready to cooperate with the Israeli government vis-a-vis the question of the abducted Israeli soldier and that too caused Hamas to direct its wrath towards Chairman Yasser Arafat and his authority.

Commenting on Israeli measures against the Palestinian people despite the Jordan-Israeli peace treaty, Taher Al Adwan, a columnist in Al Dustour, said that it is clear that Israel does not want to give up Jerusalem and other parts of the occupied lands and is therefore pursuing arbitrary measures against the Palestinians. Ahmad Al Misseh, a columnist in Al Ra'i, described the Casablanca conference as one that ushered in a new shape of the future Middle East. Though the conference was supposedly an economic meeting, the Israelis had wanted to exploit it for their own political objectives, said the writer. Even the Arab League had warned that Israel was trying to maintain its hegemony on the Arabs in the peace time as it did in the wars with the Arab countries, said the writer. Hegemony, said the writer, is more dangerous now since it is emerging under the banner of peace.

Israel is the party that achieved gains from the Casablanca conference which served as a political forum rather than an economic gathering, said Issa Shueibi in Al Dustour. The writer said that by attending the conference, Israel has secured for itself acceptance by the countries of the region as a Middle Eastern nation ready to join any regional bloc in all economic and political matters. But, he said, the conference made it clear to the world that the Arab-Israeli peace agreements

would not be sustainable unless backed by economic projects that would ensure better living conditions for the local populations. As a result and in implementation of the peace treaty with Israel, the Ministry of Culture has nine months to adopt measures aimed at ensuring normal cultural relations with the Jewish state, said Ibrahim Aljouni, a writer in Al Ra'i daily. This means that our culture minister is bound to bold meetings with his Israeli counterpart to declare normalisation of cultural relations and pave the ground for future cultural and scientific cooperation between the two sides, said Aljouni. As long as this is expected, he said, the Ministry of Culture ought to get down to work immediately and decide on steps that would safeguard Jordan's own cultural norms and ideologies.

Reflecting on the Agricultural situation in Jordan, a writer in Al Ra'i daily said that despite the earlier promises from the government to come to the aid of the farmers through an agricultural insurance system, nothing has been done to date while the farmers continue to face one natural disaster after another. Nazh said that the storms of the past month, which caused extensive damage to farmlands and green houses in the Jordan Valley, did not receive immediate attention on the part of the government and the farmers are lamenting their fortune following their heavy losses. The idea of agricultural insurance, he said, came about in the wake of repeated tragedies that befell the farmers in the past and he said tragedies are bound to happen again, especially this winter and the government is urged to take the initiative to revive idea of insuring farmlands and extending practical help to the farmers.

### LETTERS

## Alarming comments

To the Editor:

ON READING the report "Experts discuss altering education curricula" (Jordan Times, Oct. 26), I was astounded at the comments made by Iyad Qattan and Amin Mahmoud. These comments appear to be in complete variance with the reported statements made by Minister of Education Abdul Raouf Rawabdeh and Mustafa Hamameh, president of the Centre for Strategic Studies at Jordan University, who stated that "we should not permit the rewriting of our history." Why, indeed, should we think to do so?

However, according to Mr. Qattan, "all aggressive references and references to the occupation will have to be altered and historical references with respect to Arabs and Jews will require rethinking." Why?

Are our schools today teaching students exaggerated, hysterical lies, and not historical facts?

Although Mr. Qattan admitted it would be most difficult, I became further agitated at his suggestion of "replacing any Koranic verses deemed offensive with other verses." Can this actually be allowed? Were such changes ever considered to the Bible or the Torah?

Dr. Mahmoud, on the other hand, states that "the whole concept of Zionism will have to be rewritten in a different way." Again I ask, why? He continues "we... will have to be cautious about wording, and the use of descriptive references to such as 'massacre'." I cannot think of any other word that best describes what happened at Deir Yassin, and much more recently in the Hebron Mosque. The gruesome devastation that occurred in Sabra and Chatila can only be described as a "holocaust", or is that descriptive word acceptable only in relation to the Nazi persecution of the Jews?

Has South Africa rewritten its history and denied apartheid? Or have the allies and Germany, who fought fierce and long battles in two world wars, rewritten their histories?

On the day of the peace signing, Israeli children laid wreaths on graves of their fallen "martyrs" after being lectured in school on the benefits of having peace with Jordan. But according to Dr. Mahmoud, "instead of teaching students that the Zionist goal was to occupy Palestine, we will now have to teach them that Zionism was a solution to the misery of the Jews." What about our misery? Are we to no longer acknowledge, let alone honour, our dead, those who fell in battle as martyrs while defending our homeland?

May the reasoning of Mr. Rawabdeh and Dr. Hamameh be heard above that of our prestigious educationalists Mr. Qattan and Dr. Mahmoud, who certainly appear to have designs on rewriting our history to the ultimate benefit and satisfaction of our Zionist neighbours with whom we are now at peace. Historical facts are facts. We want peace with pride, not humiliation and subjugation.

G. Patricia Dajani, Amman.

## Towards liberal economy

To the Editor:

While running the risk of sounding as if this is an attempt to denigrate the present plans to increase the number of the free zone outlets, I feel prompted to laud such plans only in as much as they recognise an awareness of the needs to liberalise the national economy, yet, certainly, not of the long-term effectiveness of the plans per se. I refer to the article "Jordan's Free Zones Corporation," by Musa Al Jagheer (Jordan Times, Oct. 26).

Jordan's economic musts are evidenced in their overall potentials, namely, as a transit area, a storage area, and a keeping within focus the untapped super rich basin of "chemicals" in the Dead Sea area in particular. Jordan's economic musts are ordained by providence, with geography and history and the dictates of the country's reality. Here lies Jordan's absolute economic advantages and its comparative economic achievements.

However, in the light of the recent economic and sociopolitical realities which are gripping the area in galloping suddenness, Jordan can no longer afford to be helped and assistance to others in need.

Jordan's self-interest, and the needs for its continued prosperity could only be served (barring again to these boundaries as a free trading area. Hence, the country will become the market and the market the country.

Pessimists would maintain that this is easier said than done. But apart from seeking to protect their interests, what else could one expect from pessimists?

Optimists, on the other hand, would readily maintain that it could and should be realised.

For Jordan, to be or not to be, should not be left to the whims of the pessimists, or the honest-to-God appeals of the optimists. Jordan must be freed from the shackles of errors by trial. The future welfare, security and prosperity of Jordan can no more withstand further procrastination.

Nonetheless, these well intentioned, yet lilliputian endeavours to increase the number of free zones, should, at the best, be viewed as temporary stream-lined extensions of the customs area.

Ludwig W. Tamari, Amman.

### Correction

A PRODUCTION error in the Jordan Times of Nov. 3-4 resulted in the omission of the name of the writer of the article, "Ingratitude," which appeared on page 6. The writer is Kheir Allah Kheir Allah, who is the managing editor of the London-based Al Hayat newspaper.

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UNRWA  
short of

Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The establishment of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank and Gaza has been a significant development in the peace process. The UNRWA, which has been providing humanitarian aid to the Palestinian refugees since 1948, is now facing a new challenge. The UNRWA is a humanitarian agency that provides relief and social services to the Palestinian refugees. It is not a political organization and it does not have a role in the peace process. The UNRWA is a humanitarian agency that provides relief and social services to the Palestinian refugees. It is not a political organization and it does not have a role in the peace process.

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# Features

## UNRWA says it is short of funds

**Special to the Jordan Times**  
**AMMAN** — The establishment of the Palestinian National Authority in the Gaza Strip and Jericho has resulted in the development of a new phase in the relationship between the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) and Palestinians, says the head of the Vienna-based agency.

UNRWA Commissioner-General Ilhan Turkmen wrote in his annual report to the U.N. General Assembly, which was presented Tuesday to the U.N. special political and decolonisation committee, that "UNRWA has entered a new era in its relationship with the Palestinian people."

Mr. Turkmen said that UNRWA had begun to discuss and coordinate projects and programme initiatives with Palestinian institutions. He added that in addition to maintaining services provided for over 40 years UNRWA would soon begin preparations to handover its installations, services and programmes to the Palestinians of the occupied territories.

He also said that UNRWA would direct considerable energy into planning and executing the move of its headquarters from Vienna to Gaza.

Since the signing of the declaration of principles by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and Israel in September 1993, the agency has begun to prepare itself to support the peace process by launching its Peace Implementation Programme (PIP).

Public sector investment by the international community in the West Bank and Gaza Strip through PIP will contribute toward stabilising socio-economic conditions and creating job opportunities.

for Palestine refugees.

UNRWA has also stressed the centrality of Palestine refugees living in Jordan, Lebanon and Syria to the peace process. The agency emphasised the importance of ensuring that these refugees were included in regional development.

By the end of June 1994 UNRWA had received \$88 million in donations for PIP and implementation of \$17 million has already begun, Mr. Turkmen reported.

According to the report, between June 1993 and July 1994 relief and social services absorbed approximately 11 per cent of agency expenditure.

During that period the number of UNRWA registered Palestine refugees increased from 2.8 million to more than three million, while the number of people receiving special hardship assistance declined from 180,647 to 177,205 because of the agency's emphasis on self-reliance.

However, reviewing UNRWA's finances Mr. Turkmen expressed concern that the agency's regular programmes were increasingly threatened by a budget deficit.

"At a time when the agency is receiving substantial contributions to improve the basic physical and social infrastructure in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, it is ironic that the lack of contributions to UNRWA's regular budget is threatening to erode the quality and range of programmes which have helped sustain Palestine refugees for over 40 years."

"Unfortunately, no cost-cutting exercise, short of cancelling programmes, can generate enough funds to cover shortfalls in our regular budget for 1994 and beyond," said Mr. Turkmen.

## How much protection, how much openness at White House?

New incident opens old question of proper balance

By Alexander M. Sullivan

**WASHINGTON** — The spray of bullets that bounced off the front wall of the White House Oct. 29 has quickly reopened an old question about the safety of U.S. presidents: What is the proper balance between giving citizens access to their leaders and protecting them from would-be assassins?

It highlighted again the inherent tension between protecting the nation's chief executive from cranks, the mentally ill and the actual assassin, and the desire of the American people — and most presidents — to have open access to the president's home.

In the most recent episode, a suspect identified as Francisco Martin Duran of Colorado Springs, Colorado, turned a bright autumn afternoon on Pennsylvania Avenue to chaos by pulling an assault rifle from underneath his topcoat and firing 20 to 30 rounds at the White House. Remarkably, no one was injured. As he sought to reload his rifle, Mr. Duran was tackled by three civilians who detained him until uniformed Secret Service agents could take him into custody.

Mr. Duran purchased the gun he used — a Chinese-made Norinco SKS semi-automatic rifle — on Sept. 12, the day President Bill Clinton signed into law an anti-crime measure outlawing sale of many assault-

type rifles.

He has told authorities nothing since his arrest, not even his name. His identity was ascertained through fingerprints. No move for his arrest has been made; the Secret Service has filed firearms charges against him. After initially asserting the shooting was not an attempt to assassinate President Clinton, the Secret Service now says it may add additional charges once its investigation is completed.

Treasury Secretary Lloyd Bentsen, who has overall responsibility for the Secret Service and its presidential protective detail, told reporters Oct. 31 that he was expanding a government inquiry — already underway in the wake of a Sept. 12 crash of a light aircraft on the White House South Lawn — to include the latest incident. He pointed out that "you can't have a totally open White House. You have to achieve a balance, making it as accessible as you can to the American people, and in turn, giving the protection that's necessary for this nation's leaders and their families."

One of Mr. Bentsen's Secret Service agents, Carl Meyer, pinpointed the problem. The White House, he notes, "is the only house of a leader in the world that people can go walking through on a given day. In our type of government and political system, the people are here to see the president, the president

goes out to see them. I don't think there's going to be any change in that process."

In fact, the White House is almost always awash with public activity. There are frequent bill-signings and ceremonies in its offices, briefings and news conferences in its working quarters, speeches and diplomatic events staged on its expansive South Lawn, receptions and dinners in its state rooms. Hundreds, sometimes thousands of Americans are invited to it. Occasionally, events — like some ceremonies connected with the Camp David accords — are held on the North Grounds, the front side of the mansion facing Pennsylvania Avenue; President Clinton has held public events in front of the entrance to the West Wing, scene of the Oct. 29 incident.

Five days a week, thousands of persons trek through the public rooms of the White House on guided tours. The president's living quarters on the second and third floors of the mansion are not open to the public, but tours pass through the Grand Foyer, the East Room and the State Dining Room and give visitors views of the Red Room, the Green Room, the Blue Room, the Library and the Map Room.

Very tight control of access is maintained for all of these activities. Except for White House staff, all who enter pass through metal detectors. There are guard posts located all around the



President Bill Clinton

mansion perimeter. Snipers frequently patrol the building's roof. The grounds are marked off by a three-metre-high fence of metal spikes. Concrete posts, linked by heavy chain, guard the sidewalk against the intrusion of wheeled vehicles.

Following the carbomb attack on the U.S. Marine Corps barracks in Beirut a decade ago, the gates to the mansion's grounds were heavily reinforced to prevent a car or truck from ramming its way through. In addition to static security at the guard posts, uni-

formed Secret Service agents, some with trained dogs, patrol the grounds, and electronic motion sensors guard against intrusion.

Beyond all that, aircraft are forbidden entry to the air space around the mansion.

Nonetheless, intruders on the ground and in the air have penetrated the security screen on a few occasions, including the two most recent incidents.

What's to be done? Nothing more, many traditionalists answer. As Agent Meyer points out, "you

can't have a president operating in a vacuum. You all have seen (that) when he goes out and meets the people he really is invigorated... you can see the change take over. I don't think that absolute security is either possible" or feasible.

Security for President Clinton may be an especially hard task for the Secret Service, given his active lifestyle, his desire to meet as many ordinary citizens as he can, and his passion for outdoor physical exercise. Although supporters paid for a running track around the South Lawn, Mr. Clinton prefers early-morning jogs into the city streets, trailed by Secret Service agents and reporters.

One proposal given new impetus by Mr. Duran's bullets is a decade-old Secret Service proposal to close Pennsylvania Avenue to pedestrian and vehicle traffic. Given the fact that Pennsylvania Avenue is a main traffic artery, the nation's ceremonial boulevard for Inaugural Parades and other events, and a major tourist attraction, the resurrection of the closure proposal is a measure of the extreme remedies that pop up when White House security is the topic.

So far, only Pennsylvania Avenue closure has surfaced as a specific new security proposal, and Mr. Clinton — while saying he will await the results of the security review — has signalled through aides his distaste for the idea.

## Kohl again can be good for alliance and Europe

By Henry A. Kissinger

**NEW YORK** — Chancellor Helmut Kohl's coalition has prevailed with the narrowest margin in the Bundestag since the first German national election after the war, when Konrad Adenauer emerged as chancellor by dint of a single vote (presumably his own). Mr. Kohl is nevertheless an extraordinary achievement.

He rebounded from being behind by double digits to win his fourth consecutive election despite a major recession, in the face of a substantial tax increase in West Germany to cover the unexpectedly high costs of unification, and in the midst of the pangs of upheaval associated with the political and economic restructuring of East Germany.

In the German political system, the margin by which a chancellor is chosen is not necessarily an indication of his ability to govern. Once established by the Bundestag, a chancellor can be replaced only by a majority vote for a successor and not, as in a parliamentary system, by a vote of no-confidence or a majority against specific policies.

A hostile, closely divided Bundestag can harass the chancellor, as this one surely will. And the opposition will in any event be dominated by the Social Democrats. But a positive vote to replace him remains hard to achieve. In nearly half a century, it has happened only once — when Mr. Kohl came into office in 1982.

A narrow margin did not prevent Konrad Adenauer from becoming a dominant chancellor. And it will not by itself diminish Mr. Kohl's authority, because the Kohl coalition's real margin is greater than it appears. No current leader would accept becoming

chancellor through the 30 seats of the former Communist Party, which entered the Bundestag by a heretofore insuperable clause in the constitution. To change the chancellor, the Free Democratic Party with its 47 seats would have to switch coalitions.

But this is precisely why the election is likely to be viewed in retrospect as an augury of impending upheaval in the German political landscape; in fact, as the beginning of the end of the Kohl era — an event which will bring home to Europe and to America how much Atlantic and European cohesion has become dependent on his towering personality.

He has managed the NATO missile deployment, the unification of Germany and the integration of Europe with such matter-of-factness that few remember how precarious those processes were at every step along the way.

But the election makes it likely that Mr. Kohl's coalition partner, the Liberal Free Democratic Party, will at a minimum become increasingly fractious. It may even abandon the coalition altogether and switch sides by midterm.

For the Free Democrats are having an identity crisis. They know that they scraped by in this election by the skin of their teeth; they came very close to failing to achieve the 5 per cent of the total vote that is a prerequisite to entry into the federal parliament. They may well have crossed that hurdle primarily because Mr. Kohl's party encouraged the switch of enough of its own votes to sustain the governing coalition. And they have lost every election to state legislatures in the last three years.

The FDP seems to have reached the point which Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the former vice chancellor

and foreign minister, described to me in 1980, when his party had been in coalition with the Social Democrats for more than 10 years. He said then that the FDP would have to look for an opportunity to switch during the next electoral period because if its voters became too accustomed to a permanent coalition with the SPD, they would lose interest in a separate existence and vote for the SPD directly.

That situation seems to have arisen again, although the current FDP leader does not have the manipulative skill of Mr. Genscher and would have to take into account the risk of a complete disintegration of his party if he tried to change coalitions.

But self-interest will drive the FDP towards greater assertiveness, and, at an opportune moment, tempt it to switch coalitions — for which the narrow margin of victory provides the mathematical possibility, as it did not in the last Bundestag. A switch at that time would not have sufficed to produce a majority for any alternative chancellor.

By contrast, if, in the wake of the recent election, the FDP joins the Socialists and the Greens, the liberals will be in a position to elect a new chancellor. Mr. Kohl's position will therefore be unprecedently precarious, and his government will require far greater effort than it has needed heretofore to pass its legislative programme.

In addition, his own party may be tempted into succession manoeuvres, although his domination of the machinery has so far squelched all would-be successors.

Mr. Kohl binned strongly that, if elected, he might not serve more than two years and would hand over the rest of his term to a successor of his own choosing.

But after the recent election, such a procedure could trigger the shift in coalitions, by giving the FDP a pretext to reject the Christian Democratic Union's choice.

On the other hand, if Mr. Kohl serves out the course, he will have an exhausting term as a prelude to fighting another bitter election battle, with this time, very uncertain allies constantly reviewing whether they are more likely to reach 5 per cent as the right wing of an SPD-led coalition or as the left wing of a CDU coalition.

To me, these are melancholy prospects because I consider Helmut Kohl one of the seminal figures of our period. He has been a guarantor of Germany's Atlantic and European orientation and a shield against the nationalistic or romantic temptations from which his people have suffered through much of their modern history.

This does not reflect a lack of confidence in the leaders of the principal opposition party, the SPD, which proved its sense of responsibility under Chancellors Willy Brandt and Helmut Schmidt. Since then, however, its radical wing has grown far more restless; its coalition party would be the Greens, whose formal programme rejects the Atlantic Alliance and a major international role for Germany. The centre of gravity of such a coalition would be much further left and make the implementation of traditional Atlantic policy much more difficult.

The approaching end of the Kohl era is due not only to electoral arithmetic but to the transition in generations. Mr. Kohl is the last West German leader with a living memory of World War II and its aftermath, and for whom American help in reconstructing Europe represents a per-

sonal, indeed a sentimental, experience.

The next generation — of all the parties — will be less tied to traditional interpretations, more cool-headed about assessing national interests, and more ready to assert a national German role. This will be reinforced by the growing influence of the formerly Communist part of Germany — a region whose people lived under totalitarianism for 60 years, did not experience the great period of Atlantic cooperation and European construction, and saw in nationalism a refuge from Communist oppression.

These trends are compounded by the fact that the post-Cold War world has cut Germany loose from some of its previous moorings.

When Germany was divided, Europe provided a political home and a substitute for a national policy. So long as German armies stood on the Elbe, the Atlantic Alliance was essential for German security. Germany's unification removes one incentive for subordination to supranational institutions, and the retreat of Russian forces from Central Europe eliminates another.

At the same time, there has been no American initiative to define new purposes for the Atlantic Alliance other than the Partnership for Peace, which erodes geographic delineations without developing new common purposes.

No wonder that both the extent and the content of Europe have become controversial — all temptations to a more national role.

For America, the approaching end of the Kohl period represents a watershed of its own: whether to continue emphasising new universalist institutions that threaten to weaken progressively the

Atlantic Alliance and change the nature of the European Union, or to turn to revitalising the existing building blocks of the European order and the Atlantic Community.

The Clinton administration will not have time to pursue both approaches in partnership with Mr. Kohl; it must establish priorities. Unless the Atlantic Alliance is given a mission and a purpose reflecting its historic essence, it will gradually dissolve in a mishmash of universalist slogans indistinguishable from those of the United Nations and of general collective security. One can hardly build Europe, or an Atlantic partnership, if one is not willing to define where Europe begins and ends.

In the time remaining, America must work with Mr. Kohl on defining membership in both the Atlantic Alliance and the European Union for the states of Eastern Europe, and on creating new but different structures for political consultation with the former Soviet Union.

A clear sense of identity of the Atlantic Alliance and a clear definition of the European Union are a prerequisite to good relations with Russia. The reluctance to draw new lines means reliance on those made irrelevant by the end of the cold war. But neither Europe nor the Atlantic Alliance can stop at the East German border without creating a vacuum between Germany and Russia — the historic source of European wars.

Revitalising European and Atlantic institutions would be a noble culmination of Mr. Kohl's stewardship. It is important, for, whatever happens, America and Europe will not soon find so reliable and courageous a partner as Chancellor Kohl.

Los Angeles Times.

## Iran calls for better ties with Gulf states

**TEHRAN (R)** — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani appealed on Friday for friendly relations with Gulf Arab States saying they had nothing to fear from Iran.

Mr. Rafsanjani said he had told Gulf countries: "Let's be friends. Let's create security in this region so to avoid paying ransom money. The so-called threat of Iran... has no basis in reality."

He lamented that they had not responded.

Mr. Rafsanjani, speaking at Friday prayers in Tehran University, also said the sending of U.S. troops to defend the Gulf states was a waste of money.

The U.S. rushed military forces to the region to confront Iraqi military troops movements near the Kuwait border in October.

"Any time Americans want money, this scenario could be repeated. Bringing forces, receiving several billion dollars and going back," he said.

Mr. Hashemi Rafsanjani, in a speech on the 15th anniversary of the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, also denounced what he called Washington's threats and bullying.

"America's anti-Iran bullying attitude and threats are wrong and will get them nowhere," Mr. Rafsanjani said.

Thousands of Iranians burned the U.S. flag and effigies of President Bill Clinton and shouted "Death to America" during a government-organised protest rally outside the former embassy in Tehran on Wednesday to mark the seizure on Nov. 4, 1979.

"All saw how many showed up and expressed hatred toward America," Rafsanjani said.

"Change your attitude."

he advised Washington. "How in the world do you expect Iran to surrender? Three thousand years ago while you were feeding from wild fruits, this nation had a great civilisation here."

Mr. Rafsanjani also hailed the U.N. General Assembly's vote for lifting the Bosnia arms embargo, saying it was "good news."

Mr. Rafsanjani hoped the non-binding resolution would "pave the way for an end to the Bosnian crisis and injustice."

"It is good news and we are happy," he said.

The 184-member General Assembly voted Thursday, for the second consecutive year, to lift the embargo on deliveries of arms to the Bosnian government, dominated by Muslims.

The measure was sponsored by non-aligned and Muslim nations together with the United States.

The resolution was passed by a 97-0 vote, but 61 countries abstained, including 10 of the 15-member Security Council, the U.N.'s decision-making body.

Last year's vote was 109-0 with 57 abstentions, and it included one fewer abstention among Security Council members.

Iran is a staunch supporter of Bosnian Muslims and has urged the world community to lift the arms embargo against them.

Mr. Rafsanjani also voiced welcomed military victories by the Bosnian army against Serbian forces.

"We hope such victories will continue, because there is a fear that Satanic forces could change the situation in their favour," he said.

A Muslim offensive has been underway in northwestern Bosnia against the Serb forces.

## Hamas protesters slam Arafat

(Continued from page 11)

without triggering civil war. And Mr. Arafat did not think Israel was about to embark on a killing spree in Gaza like the bunt for the Munich attackers.

But he said: "If this kind of escalation takes place, it's not a good thing. It's not good for the peace process. It is better for Arafat to get the message."

Police escorted Friday's marchers who carried black flags and banners through Gaza City chanting Islamic slogans and attacking

Mr. Arafat's autonomy deal with Israel.

"Oh Arafat, this is your peace, nothing but jail and detention," they raged.

Another banner read: "We tell those who flexed their muscle to search for the Israeli soldier to do the same and find Hani Abed's killer."

It was a reference to a Palestinian police crackdown on Hamas ordered by Arafat after the movement kidnapped a soldier on Oct. 9.

But there was support for Mr. Arafat from about 700 Fatah members who rallied in front of his Gaza headquar-

ters.

He came out to greet them as they chanted "with our blood and soul we will defend you Arafat" and he was hoisted shoulder-high.

"The most important thing in these difficult moments is our national unity, nothing must harm that," Mr. Arafat said. "I tell my brothers in Fatah to be patient," he said, quoting from the Koran.

Islamic Jihad and Hamas issued statements condemning Israeli attempts to start a "civil war" among Palestinians and urged unity. "Our people will stand un-

ited with all its forces, including the Palestinian authority, in the face of these plots," said a cleric, reading a statement at a mosque from where the demonstrators walked to Abed's house.

The Jihad, which has claimed responsibility for a series of attacks on Israelis in recent years, pledged to "make the Zionist entity pay for this new crime."

On Thursday, young activists evicted Mr. Arafat from Abed's mosque funeral, knocking off his headress and chanting slogans against him. In the Palestinian leader's first public statements after the incident, he played

down the wild scene. "The wind never moves the mountain, don't let anything harm our unity," said Mr. Arafat.

Immediately after Mr. Arafat was evicted from the mosque a delegation apologised to the Palestinian leader, blaming the incident on street hooligans not directly connected to Islamic movements.

"What happened yesterday was a very bad mistake," Hamas leader Mahmoud Zahar told the crowd of thousands gathered outside Abed's home after Friday prayers.

"We must remain united," he said.

But despite their calls for unity, Hamas leaders still blamed the Palestinian National Authority in part for Abed's death because of their lack of protection for the Islamic factions.

Abed was a suspect in the May schisming death of two Israeli soldiers and Palestinians blame Israel for his death. Israeli sources said he had ordered a carbomb constructed to explode inside Israel and press reports said a stolen car had already been readied.

"The time has come for the Palestinian security forces to confront informants instead of bounding the holy fighters," said a Hamas leaflet.

## U.N. force to leave Somalia

(Continued from page 12)

Aideed came as a surprise to UNOSOM.

But Gen. Aideed said representatives from the 12 factions taking part in the conference had last month informed Mr. Gbeho of his decision to hold the meeting and had requested UNOSOM's assistance.

"It is very ironic, to say the least, that the special representative of the secretary-general has resorted to empty gestures and outright misinformation... to retard the reconciliation conference," Gen. Aideed's statement.

issued on behalf of factions participating in the meeting, said.

Mr. Gbeho said the exclusion of certain factions "would be a recipe for continued strife and violence," adding that the United Nations "could not be a party to the divisive move of this kind."

Gen. Aideed's arch rival, self-styled Interim President Ali Mahdi Mohammed, also denounced the conference as unilateral and refused to participate.



## Dollar tossed as U.S. data add to rate rise pressure

LONDON (R) — The dollar pitched and tossed on the foreign exchanges Friday after U.S. labour data put increasing pressure on the U.S. Federal Reserve (Fed) to tighten credit policy, dealers said.

"The basic view is (the data are) very good for the U.S. economy but it really does mean the Fed are going to have to do something very quickly," said a dealer at a U.K. bank here. "And by quickly, I mean this afternoon."

U.S. non-farm payrolls rose 198,000 in October, below forecasts for a 238,000 rise but strong enough to show the Fed needed to act aggressively to combat inflation, dealers said.

In September, non-farm payrolls rose 248,000. But of more interest to

economists were the strong increases in the average U.S. work week and earnings, which signalled the Fed had not done enough so far to quell inflation, they said.

Malcolm Barr, economist at Chemical Bank in London, said the market had been short of dollars ahead of the figures and was covering those positions. He said there was no sign of Fed support, adding: "It looks like they don't need to, it's holding up independently."

Brian Hilliard, senior international economist at Societe Generale Strauss Turbulla here, said the recent dollar weakness reflected general poor sentiment over U.S. financial assets. "As long as that remains, you're not going to see a turn in the dollar," he said.

## Deputy premier quits in new Russian government upheaval

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia's government and its economic reforms were hit by new upheaval Friday with the resignation of Deputy Prime Minister Alexander Shokhin in protest at the appointment of an ex-communist as finance minister.

Mr. Shokhin, 42, an avid market reformer who also served as economy minister, was the fifth senior official to lose his job following the collapse of the ruble.

Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin expressed surprise and regret at Mr. Shokhin's resignation offer, but said Friday that the decision would be accepted by President Boris Yeltsin.

Mr. Shokhin acted after Mr. Yeltsin Thursday named Vladimir Panskov, 50, to replace interim finance minister Andrei Vavilov, who was fired for his alleged responsibility in the ruble crisis, which saw the currency lose 21 per cent of its value on

Oct. 11. Mr. Panskov was a deputy finance minister in the Soviet era and had worked since May as deputy director of Mr. Yeltsin's budget and finance department.

Mr. Yeltsin branded the crisis a "financial coup d'etat" aimed at trying to bring down his government.

His Security Council Wednesday issued a report directly blaming the central bank, the finance ministry, the economy ministry and some commercial banks for profiting "directly and on a large scale from the serious destabilisation of the country's financial system."

It accused finance ministry and the central bank of trying to ease the government's burgeoning budget deficit by speculating against the ruble.

Mr. Shokhin, in announcing his resignation at a press conference, said Mr. Chernomyrdin had "decided to

hold me responsible for the lack of coordination of ministries in charge of the economy."

He said he would have been prepared to drop his economy minister portfolio and accept the blame for the October ruble plunge, had he been consulted about the appointment of Mr. Panskov.

"I would have accepted this responsibility only if the nomination of the ministers of finance and economy were made with my approval. But I have just learned that the president has named Mr. Panskov to the finance ministry," he added.

"I regret that Chernomyrdin did not inform me about this appointment," Mr. Shokhin said.

"Just yesterday he told me he had never seen Panskov in his life. It's a very strange step to name someone to such a high post who is unknown by the prime minister," Mr. Shokhin said.

## Japan's current account surplus dips 0.7% to \$62.92b in 6 months

TOKYO (R) — Japan's huge current account surplus, dipped in the six months to the end of September and economists expect it to keep falling — although at a snail's pace for a while at least.

The finance ministry said Friday that the six-month surplus fell 0.7 per cent from a year earlier to \$62.92 billion.

"The trade surplus is coming down slowly... and from here through the rest of the year and the extraordinarily slow decline is likely to continue," said Barclays de Zoete Wedd Securities (Japan) economist Christ Calderwood.

In September alone, the nation's surplus in its current account — the broadest measure of trade in goods and services — narrowed to a seasonally unadjusted \$11.63 billion from a revised \$13.10 billion a year earlier.

The September surplus came in reassuringly lower than the consensus among

private economists polled by Reuters, who had forecast it would shrink to \$12.4 billion. Japan's surplus in trade alone widened 2.2 per cent from a year earlier to \$72.22 billion in the six months through September.

In the month of September, the trade balance was a \$14.07 billion surplus compared with surpluses of \$14.62 billion a year earlier and \$8.65 billion in August.

"The situation in which the surpluses just keep growing has changed and monthly figures will in general not exceed those of a year ago. But the pace of decline will be slower than we originally thought," said Tetsuro Sano, an economist at Nikko Research Centre.

Economists said robust exports to U.S. and Asian markets were dampening the pace of the trade surplus decline, despite strong growth in imports.

"Despite the yen's rise, exports to the U.S. and Asia are strong — it can't be helped," Mr. Sano said, adding that an expected pickup in European economies would also suck in more Japanese goods.

Exports rose 8.02 per cent from a year earlier to \$190.8 billion in the six months to September, while imports were up 11.92 per cent to \$118.59 billion, the finance

ministry said. Mr. Calderwood said, however, that strong import growth could bring surprising declines in the surplus next calendar year.

Customs-cleared trade figures for the first 20 days of October, also released Friday, showed that exports rose 14.8 per cent from a year ago while imports jumped 24.6 per cent.

"We think there are probably some surprises on the import side three to six months out," he said. "We might see the surplus falling more quickly than expected."

A finance ministry official told reporters that both the yen's rise, which makes imports cheaper, and competitive foreign products were helping to cut the surplus.

"The yen has a part to play but there was also the fact that foreign companies were pricing their products competitively, and also they have been able to make goods which suit Japanese tastes," he said.

The surplus is already falling in yen terms in dollar terms, since a strong yen inflates the dollar value of exports.

The current account surplus was 6.37 trillion yen in the six months to end-September, down 6.8 per cent from a year ago.

## Sentiment towards dollar remains fairly negative

The following report, covering the period from Thursday, Oct. 27-1994 until Wednesday, Nov. 2-1994, is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai.

### Currency outlook

#### Overview

**Fundamental View:** Despite a round of Fed dollar buying, sentiment towards the dollar remains fairly negative due to ongoing concerns about potential U.S. inflation, another missed deadline in the U.S.-Japan trade talks and uncertainty about the upcoming U.S.-mid-term elections. Recent U.S. economic indicators have been strong and it is widely expected that the Fed will raise interest rates at the upcoming FOMC meeting on Nov. 15. Merrill Lynch economists expect the Fed to raise both the Fed funds and the discount rate by 50 basis points at that time, though it appears the market may be discounting a rate rise larger than that. Because the market is already anticipating an increase, it is unlikely that a 50 basis point charge will support the dollar meaningfully. A larger increase would do more to support the dollar near-term, but a larger increase could also be establishing for the equity markets and discourage portfolio capital inflows — a negative for the dollar.

We continue to expect the dollar to fall to levels as low as DM/USD 1.45 and JPY/USD 92 over the next twelve months.

**Technical View:** In recent weeks, European currencies have been relatively strong against the U.S. dollar, while both the Australian and Canadian dollars have been under at least some pressure. Last week (ending Oct. 28) those fortunes were at least temporarily reversed as the European currencies and the Japanese yen fell against the greenback, while the Australian and Canadian currencies rallied. In the end, the dollar index gained 0.4 per cent for the week. While this advance can be characterised as being fairly modest, it was the fourth gain in six weeks and was the best performance since late August. The July-August momentum lows continue to be the lows for the post-February dollar decline; as a result, the weakness of recent weeks has not been confirmed.

Overall, sentiment for the dollar is neutral, but is working in a recent overbought condition (particularly against the yen). Thus, some backing and filling may still be required before sentiment is positioned for a good bottom. Until that point is formed, the downtrend remains intact with medium term resistance at 86.00-88.40 and long term resistance at 90.30-90.60. The index has so far held support 84.90, but a decisive break of that level could well signal

further weakness to below 83.00 and perhaps a full test to the 1992 low near 78.00.

#### Japanese yen

**Fundamental View:** The inability of U.S. and Japan trade negotiators to wrap-up the final details of a flat glass accord reached at the beginning of October in time for the U.S. imposed deadline of Oct. 31 added to negative dollar sentiment. Looking ahead, economic data released later in the week may further add to downward pressure on the dollar-yen exchange rate. The U.S. employment report for October will be released Friday and should employment growth come in higher than expected, inflation fears will probably be heightened. Also on Friday, Japan's current account surplus for September will be released. It is expected to widen in dollar terms because of the J-curve effect.

As we have noted before, U.S.-Japan current account and capital flow imbalances are putting the majority of the pressure on the yen-dollar exchange rate. Though Japan's current account surplus is narrowing in yen terms, it will take some time for the imbalance to show substantial improvement. Moreover, we have recently trimmed our 1994 Japanese growth forecast to 1 per cent from 1.3 per cent due to the weaker-than-expected second quarter. We still expect growth to be near 3 per cent next year. We maintain our 12-month forecast of JPY/USD 92.

**Technical View:** The Japanese yen fell 0.2 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended Oct. 28. Sentiment has begun to show signs of deterioration; the Consensus Inc. weekly sentiment reading came in at 46 per cent bulls, with the three-week moving average at 23 per cent. Despite the weekly improvement, this latter figure is still a constructive (oversold) reading for the currency and implies that, even with weak momentum, nearby reactions will probably be short lived.

Thus, despite the recent temporary break below the 1994 trend line, the underlying uptrend remains in force. Medium term (first) resistance exists at 100.80 Y/USD, with longer term resistance coming in at 101.80. Important support exists at 97.60; a break of that level would allow for a move through 93.

#### Deutsche mark

**Fundamental View:** The Deutsche mark has managed to hold on to its gains, following the Kohl victory in the German election, continuing to trade near DM/USD 1.50 though challenging the downside. The mark continues to benefit from the market's ongoing concern that U.S. inflation is about to accelerate. Recent U.S. economic indicators have been strong and it is widely expected that the Fed will raise interest rates at the upcoming FOMC meeting on Nov. 15.

Merrill Lynch economists expect the Fed to raise both the Fed funds and the discount rate by 50 basis points at that time, though it appears the market may be discounting a rate rise larger than that. Because the market is already anticipating an increase, it is unlikely that a 50 basis point charge will give the dollar much of a boost. A large increase would do more to support the dollar near-term but a larger increase could also be destabilising for the equity markets and discourage portfolio capital inflows and further encourage portfolio capital outflows — a negative for the dollar.

We maintain our forecast for the dollar to trend lower over the next six months to DM/USD 1.45 before recovering to DM/USD 1.50 in the six months after that. However, we caution that volatility will continue to plague the dollar for still some time to come.

**Technical View:** The Deutsche mark declined 0.7 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Unlike the yen, sentiment for the D-mark is approaching overbought readings. Momentum has been deteriorating since August, and still seems to have the potential to remain under pressure for the rest of the year.

This suggests that the D-mark strength of recent weeks (as well as the underlying post-February uptrend) is reasonably close to a top. Nonetheless, it would likely require a decline back through at least 1.54 DM/USD, and more likely 1.60, to reverse that trend and fully substantiate the action of momentum. Strong resistance remains at 1.48; the currency has been testing that level, and a penetration would allow for at least a challenge of 1.39.

Against the yen, the D-mark fell 0.6 per cent last week. Medium term oscillators are overbought and short term indicators have peaked, suggesting a potential test of the lows of the long term trading range. That range generates support at 59-60, with resistance above 66.50.

#### Pound sterling

**Fundamental View:** The British pound was stronger this week as currency traders adjusted to the possibility of an official interest rate hike in the U.K. The pound remained near its two-year high of USD/GBP 1.64 while appreciating against the Deutsche mark to DM/GBP 2.45. Recent strength in U.K. economic indicators has led to some speculation that there will be an official interest rate increase. But our London economics team does not expect an interest rate increase at this time. The recent strength in sterling should allow a rate increase to be put off until early 1995.

We maintain our positive outlook on the pound and expect it to continue to appreciate to USD/GBP 1.66 in six months time before slipping to USD/GBP 1.63 in the following six months.

Against the mark, we expect the pound to be trading around the current level of DM/GBP 2.45 in twelve months time. Resistance is at 2.467-2.475, with support at 2.38-2.41.

## Major hit by post privatisation climbdown

LONDON (R) — A humiliating climbdown over plans to privatise Britain's post office has exposed the weakness of John Major's government and could spur further rebellions within his disgruntled Conservative Party, especially over Europe.

A dozen Conservatives opposed to selling off the post office forced him Thursday to abandon at the last minute what was to have been the flagship economic policy of next year's legislative agenda.

The big loser from the debacle is Trade Secretary Michael Heseltine, who admitted he was distressed

that his cherished plan had been scuppered but vowed to stay in his job and fight.

Mr. Major himself had been cool about privatising the post office, and came out at last month's Conservative annual conference in favour of a quiet period of "consolidation" instead of more upheavals in Britain's public services.

But by backing down so close to Nov. 16, when Queen Elizabeth will unveil the government's legislative plans, Mr. Major has reinforced the public impression that he needs a dithering, indecisive administration.

## SALE 36%

\*DAJANI'S  
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On ALL Non Gold Items.  
NOT FOR EVER!!

Amra Hotel Shops  
6th Circle  
Amman

## Horoscope not received

### THE Daily Crossword by James E. Hinish, Jr.

**ACROSS**

- 1 Apple
- 4 Alibi, e.g.
- 8 Humors
- 13 Troubadour love song
- 14 Small group
- 15 Out or
- 16 French
- 18 Fixed-price agreement
- 19 Circus or
- 20 Fight periods
- 21 Lamb's mom
- 22 Football team
- 23 Social class
- 27 Exchange
- 29 "All Jazz"
- 30 San Simeon's builder
- 35 Odom's reply
- 36 Chest sound
- 37 Scott's solo
- 38 Pace or lace
- 39 Garter
- 40 Busy as
- 41 Be obedient
- 42 Legume
- 43 Bird
- 45 A Florida
- 46 up
- 48 (confused)
- 49 People of Pige
- 50 More lightly
- 51 Fort Worth
- 52 Circus letters
- 53 Trade banner
- 56 Exchange
- 61 Noble town
- 62 Broken-down horse
- 63 show, e.g.
- 64 Lady retreat
- 65 Simon Tempa
- 66 Horse latitudes
- 67 Tilt
- 68 Concoct

**DOWN**

- 1 Wings
- 2 Wishing bird
- 3 Trade center
- 4 Pale yellow
- 5 Occupations
- 6 Assist
- 7 Wade
- 8 Necktie
- 9 Showcase part
- 10 Literary conflict
- 11 boy
- 12 They can be loose or tight
- 13 Pigeon sig.
- 17 Kilmer poem
- 20 Account
- 22 Broken-down horse
- 23 at the bk
- 24 Lady retreat
- 25 Simon Tempa
- 26 Horse latitudes
- 28 Anglo-Saxon council
- 30 Custom
- 31 Northern native
- 32 Rains in
- 33 Clue
- 34 Gingham
- 44 Escape notice
- 47 Felted film
- 48 Under way
- 52 VIII student
- 53 Vault
- 54 Seed
- 55 Sinner Ponce
- 56 Salazar
- 57 Strane name
- 58 Mercator
- 59 Small tree
- 62 Spongers

**Puzzle solved:**

|         |         |      |
|---------|---------|------|
| VALE    | WADAO   | GOBI |
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| ATACH   | TOCUL   |      |
| CHAM    | PIAL    |      |
| ARE     | TREY    | PIA  |
| ADO     | REU     | BEND |
| ATIS    | CIVILAN | DOES |
| REDD    | SIGOS   | ADUS |

### eanuts



### indy Capp



### utt'n' Jeff



### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



"I know you haven't been brushing your teeth regularly, so I frosted your cupcake with toothpaste!"

### JUMBLE. THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VELDE

BAXOR

YEMBOR

ELYSEP

Print answer here: \_\_\_\_\_

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: ALOED FORUM CEMENT FELLOW

Answer: What the fire inspector discovered — AN OLD FLAME



nt surplus  
in 6 months

ministry said  
that the surplus  
growth could be  
achieved in the  
current year.

Customs cleared trade  
goods for the first six months  
of the year, showing that the  
14.4 per cent from a year ago  
while imports dropped 24.4  
per cent.

"We think there are  
surprises in the  
support side of the  
economy," he said. "We  
might see the surplus  
more than expected."

A Finance Ministry  
reporter said that the  
surplus was a result of  
the government's  
policy of reducing  
expenditure and  
increasing revenue.

The report also said  
that the government  
was planning to  
reduce the deficit  
in the next year.

The current account  
surplus was 6.1 per cent  
of the gross domestic  
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in the same period  
last year.

## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

| Currency               | New York<br>Close | Hong Kong<br>Close |
|------------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Sterling Pound         | 1.6230            | 1.6244**           |
| Deutsche Mark          | 1.5154            | 1.5146             |
| Swiss Franc            | 1.2635            | 1.2638**           |
| French Franc           | 5.1895            | 5.1874**           |
| Japanese Yen           | 97.85             | 97.46              |
| European Currency Unit | 1.2580            | 1.2587**           |

European Currency Unit

| Currency               | 1 MTH | 3 MTH | 6 MTH | 12 MTH |
|------------------------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar            | 4.81  | 5.43  | 5.75  | 6.12   |
| Sterling Pound         | 5.50  | 5.67  | 6.25  | 6.93   |
| Deutsche Mark          | 4.65  | 4.93  | 5.06  | 5.43   |
| Swiss Franc            | 3.56  | 3.61  | 4.00  | 4.43   |
| French Franc           | 5.51  | 5.50  | 5.66  | 6.18   |
| Japanese Yen           | 5.12  | 5.16  | 5.31  | 5.62   |
| European Currency Unit | 5.46  | 5.51  | 5.75  | 6.00   |

**Precious Metals** Date: 3.11.1994

| Metal | USD/Oz | JD/Gm <sup>a</sup> | Metal  | USD/Oz | JD/Gm |
|-------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------|-------|
| Gold  | 383.95 | 7.60               | Silver | 5.32   | 0.125 |

<sup>a</sup> 21 Karat

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

| Currency       | Bid    | Offer  |
|----------------|--------|--------|
| U.S. Dollar    | 0.6910 | 0.6930 |
| Sterling Pound | 1.1220 | 1.1270 |
| Deutsche Mark  | 0.4595 | 0.4566 |
| Swiss Franc    | 0.5468 | 0.5495 |
| French Franc   | 0.1332 | 0.1339 |
| Japanese Yen   | 0.0093 | 0.0093 |
| Dutch Guilder  | 0.4071 | 0.4091 |
| Swedish Krona  | 0.0444 | 0.0444 |
| Italian Lira   | 0.0444 | 0.0444 |
| Belgian Franc  | 0.0444 | 0.0444 |

Other Currencies

| Currency       | Bid      | Offer    |
|----------------|----------|----------|
| Bahraini Dinar | 1.8207   | 1.8260   |
| Lebanese Lira  | 0.040650 | 0.042540 |
| Saudi Riyal    | 0.1832   | 0.1853   |
| Kuwaiti Dinar  | 2.5700   | 2.5750   |
| Qatari Riyal   | 0.1569   | 0.1575   |
| Egyptian Pound | 0.2000   | 0.2000   |
| Omani Riyal    | 1.7520   | 1.8075   |
| UAE Dirham     | 3.1576   | 0.1892   |
| Greek Drachma  | 0.0275   | 0.0275   |
| Cypriot Pound  | 1.5552   | 1.5746   |

## AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE - NOVEMBER 5, 1994

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## Wait-and-see attitude still prevails at Amman Financial Market

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Investors continued to adopt a wait-and-see attitude at the Amman stock market despite the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and the Middle East and North Africa economic summit held in Casablanca last week that held out promises of economic prosperity for Jordan, brokers said Friday.

Trading in the Amman Financial Market (AFM) was the Jordanian bourse is officially known, remained largely stagnant and prices also registered a small drop last week, the weekly AFM report said.

Turnover during the week was JD 3.1 million, down 20.5 per cent from the previous weeks JD 3.9 million, the report said.

The general share price index based on 60 major companies closed at 143.1 points, down 0.5 points or 0.4 per cent from the week's opening of 143.6 points, the report showed.

The industrial sector accounted for JD 1.3 million, or 41.6 per cent of the turnover, followed by the services sector with JD 1 million, or 31.7 per cent, commercial banks and financial institutions with JD 830,000 or 26.4 per cent, and insurance stock with JD 100,000 or 0.3 per cent, according to the report.

The only sector to show a small increase was the industrial sector, whose index closed 0.4 points or 0.3 per cent up.

The services sector index closed 5.3 points of 3.9 points down, the insurance sector index went down by 0.5 points or 0.4 per cent and the banking sector index declined by 0.5 points or 0.3 per cent.

Shares of 77 companies were traded during the week, with 16 of them showing slight gains, 47 losing and 14 remaining stable as business closed on Wednesday, the last day of trading for the week. Final accounting for the week is done on Thursday.

Brokers attributed the stagnancy in the market to what they described as a wait-and-see attitude on the part of investors ahead of concrete signs of economic prospects for Jordan following the

peace treaty that the Kingdom signed with Israel on Oct. 26.

"It is not that investors do not expect anything to come out of the peace treaty," said a broker. "They are awaiting details of possible new projects so that they could judge which companies are going to benefit and how and reflect those expectations in the stock market."

The broker said investors were conscious of the prospects that the Casablanca summit held out for economic development of Jordan but wanted to have detailed information on what transpired during the conference and which sectors held out better chances before committing themselves.

## Foreign investment in U.S. rises

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — Direct foreign investment in the United States rose sharply in 1993 to \$26.2 billion from \$15.3 billion in 1992.

The upward trend continued in the first half of 1994, with foreign purchases of U.S. stocks and entire companies rose to \$3.9 billion, according to the report

from accountants Arthur Andersen, based on Commerce Department figures.

The U.S. manufacturing sector was the largest magnet for foreign investors in 1993, accounting for \$12.4 billion or 47 per cent of the total.

Investment in services doubled to \$3.9 billion, but real estate investment fell to \$1.6 billion from \$2.16 billion the previous year.

Britain was the largest investor by country, almost quadrupling its stake from \$2.3 billion to \$9.03 billion.

But recession in Japan saw investment from there fall further to \$1.85 billion, down from \$2.92 billion in 1992 and \$2.0 billion in 1990.

Japan nonetheless continues to head the table of cumulative investments, at \$96.2 billion, ahead of Britain with \$95.4 billion.

Canada, Germany, the Netherlands and France all increased their U.S. investments last year, ranging from \$1.08 billion for France to \$3.99 billion for Canada.

New York headed the list of U.S. states for attracting foreign investment in 1993 with \$7.02 billion, followed by Texas with \$4.1 billion and California at \$2.78 billion.

Direct investment is when someone acquires more than a 10 per cent stake in a company.

One sterling

One ounce of gold \$383.85/384.15

U.S. \$1.00 costs

1.3592/02

1.5222/32

1.7064/69

1.2724/34

31.31/35

5.2230/80

1562.6/4.1

97.89/99

7.3800/00

6.6350/00

5.9580/30

\$1.6090/00

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# Arsenal, Chelsea fly flag for England

LONDON (Agencies) — Defending champion Arsenal and Chelsea both advanced to lift some of the gloom for English teams in European play, while clubs from Italy and Spain completed a near perfect week for their countries with victories Thursday in the Cup Winners Cup.

Ian Wright, celebrating his 31st birthday, scored in his club-record 11th consecutive game as Arsenal gained a place in the quarter-finals after struggling to a 2-2 draw with Danish club Brondby.

Arsenal advanced on a 4-3 aggregate, but only after Brondby was denied an appeal for a penalty in injury time after a strong second-half performance.

Wright, playing his first game in 11 days after suffering a groin injury, converted a penalty in the 25th minute for his 16th goal of the season. Ian Selley also netted for Arsenal, but heavy underdog Brondby got goals from Bo Hansen and Dan Eggen, and Hansen was brought down in the Arsenal box in the closing seconds but did not draw the penalty.

Chelsea advanced on the away goals rule after Scottish striker John Spencer capped one of the most spectacular solo runs of the year with the deciding goal in a 1-1 draw at Austria Vienna. The teams played to a scoreless tie in the first leg in London two weeks ago.

With two defenders trailing in his wake, Spencer ran 80 metres with the ball after a Vienna shot off a corner kick was blocked by a wall of Chelsea players.

Spencer, playing his first match after sitting out four weeks with a knee injury, then drew goalkeeper Franz Wohlfahrt away from the net and slotted home the crucial away goal in the 40th minute.

"I don't think I will ever score a better goal," Spencer said. "And I don't think I'll ever get a more important one. I kept thinking the sweeper was going to appear like a sniper from out of the grass, but he never did. I looked behind me a couple of times, but they never seemed to catch up. They were treading water."

The patchwork lineup of Chelsea, which has 14 players on the injured list, allowed a



Chelsea's Nigel Spackmann (right) looks at Austria Wien's Igor Mjekle (centre) shooting at the Chelsea goal during the

Cup Winner's Cup second round, second leg match at the Ernst Happel Stadium on Thursday (AFP photo)

goal by Lithuanian striker Arminas Narbekovas in the 73rd minute, then held on to repel several quality scoring chances by the Austrians over the final minutes.

The triumphs for Chelsea and Arsenal were the first bright moments in four weeks for English clubs. Newcastle and Aston Villa were knocked out of the UEFA Cup Tuesday, and Manchester United was blown away 4-0 by Barcelona in the Champions League Wednesday.

In contrast, Spain's teams were 5-for-5 this week, capped by Spanish league leader Zaragoza's 2-1 victory Thursday over Czech team Tatra Presov.

Argentine Juan Eduardo Escoiler and Oscar Luis Celada scored for Zaragoza, which advanced on a 6-1 aggregate. Zaragoza hosted the game at Valencia because of UEFA sanctions against the club for the past crowd problems at its home field.

In addition to Barcelona's victory in the Champions League, Spanish clubs Real

Madrid, Athletic De Bilbao and Deportivo De La Coruna also won earlier in the week and advanced to the third round of the UEFA Cup.

**Results of European Cup Winners' Cup and UEFA Cup second round, second leg soccer matches Thursday:**

**Cup Winners' Cup**  
In Budapest: Ferencvaros (Hungary) 2 FC Porto (Portugal) 0 (half time 1-0).  
Scorers: Gabor Zavacky (27th), Eugen Neagoe (59th).  
Attendance: 10,000.  
Porto win 6-2 on aggregate.

**In Vienna: Austria Vienna (Austria) 1 Chelsea (England) 1 (0-1).**  
Scorers: Austria Vienna — Arminas Narbekovas (73rd).  
Chelsea — John Spencer (40th).  
Attendance: 25,000.  
Aggregate 1-1. Chelsea win on away goals rule.

**In Auxerre: Auxerre (France) 2 Besiktas (Turkey) 0 (1-0).**  
Scorers: Sahri Lamouchi (45th, 49th).  
Attendance: 20,000.  
Auxerre win 4-2 on aggregate.

**In Valencia: Real Zaragoza (Spain) 2 Tatra Presov (Slovakia) 1 (1-1).**  
Scorers: Real Zaragoza — Juan Eduardo Escoiler (5th), Oscar Celada (56th).  
Tetra Presov — Vello Koci (38th).  
Attendance: 9,000.  
Real Zaragoza win 6-1 on aggregate.

**In Bremen: Werder Bremen (Germany) 3 Feyenoord (Netherlands) 4 (1-2).**  
Scorers: Werder Bremen — Vladimir Beschastnykh (12th, 60th), Mario Basler (90th).  
Feyenoord — Henryk Larsson (21st, 34th, 66th), Ruud Heus (56th pen).  
Attendance: 31,118.  
Feyenoord win 5-3 on aggregate.

**In London: Arsenal (England) 2 Brondby (Denmark) 2 (1-1).**  
Scorers: Arsenal — Ian Wright (25th pen), Ian Selley (46th).  
Brondby — Bo Hansen (2nd, Dan Eggen (69th)).  
Attendance: 32,290.  
Arsenal win 4-3 on aggregate.

**UEFA Cup**  
In Dortmund: Borussia Dortmund (Germany) 3 Slovan Bratislava (Slovakia) 0 (1-0).  
Scorers: Andy Moeller (15th), Karlheinz Riedle (46th, 68th).  
Attendance: 32,534.  
Dortmund win 4-2 on aggregate.

**Rotterdam (Netherlands) 4 (1-2).**  
Scorers: Werder Bremen — Vladimir Beschastnykh (12th, 60th), Mario Basler (90th).  
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## Turkish giant-killers to face Lazio

GENEVA (R) — Turkish giant-killers Trabzonspor, surprise victors this week over England's Aston Villa, drew a testing assignment in the third round of the UEFA Cup Friday against Lazio of Rome.

In the draw for the last 16 that features four Italian teams, Juventus drew Admira Wacker of Austria and Parma found themselves up against Spain's Athletic Bilbao.

Napoli however, were given tougher opponents in Eintracht Frankfurt of Germany — winners of the trophy 14 years ago and arguably the most powerful of the eight unseeded teams.

Trabzonspor won their first-ever third-round place in the competition Tuesday, edging out Aston Villa on the away goals rule. Villa had previously dethroned holders Internazionale of Milan.

The victory made them heroes at home with a group of MPS proposing the Turkish parliament should give Trabzonspor 30 billion lira (\$830,000) for their performance so far.

They now face a Lazio team who have made an impressive start in the Italian first division campaign, with five wins in their first eight games putting them second behind Parma.

Parma were drawn Friday against Bilbao, who also won through on the away goals rule after a 1-0 second-leg win at home to Newcastle left the aggregate score tied.

"After knocking out the English league leaders we are hoping to do the same to the Italians to make a dent among the greats of European soccer," said Bilbao vice-president Domingo Guzman.

Among the other third-round ties, Spanish championship contenders Deportivo La Coruna were drawn against Germany's Borussia Dortmund. Another German team, 1988 winners Bayer Leverkusen, drew Katowice

of Poland. French league leaders Nantes will face Sion — the small Swiss side which dumped Marseille out of the competition.

And the part-timers from Odense, the Danish town that is the birthplace of Hans Christian Andersen, saw their fairytale run threatened. After knocking Kaiserslautern out of the competition Wednesday, the Danes now face Real Madrid.

for quarter-final qualification. In Paris, Brazilian star Rai conjured up a magical performance to see unbeaten Paris Saint Germain through to the quarter-finals of the European Champions League.

The midfielder, set to be ditched after a disastrous debut season and luke-warm World Cup, was at the heart of the action as the depleted French side saw off Dynamo

## UEFA CUP

The ties will be settled over two legs on November 22 and December 6.

In Barcelona, Wednesday, World Cup stars Romario and Hristo Stoichkov linked up superbly as Barcelona thrashed Manchester United 4-0 in the European Champions League.

Two goals from Bulgaria's Stoichkov and another from the brilliant Brazilian put the Catalonians firmly on course

Kiev 1-0. Their fourth win out of four gave them eight points and guaranteed them a place in the next round of the elite competition.

Paris Saint Germain began without international stars David Ginola (groin injury), Ricardo (hamstring) and Valdo (suspended), but they totally dominated their opponents, who they had earlier beaten in the Ukraine.

## STANDINGS

| Group A           | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| IFK Gothenburg    | 3 | 0 | 1 | 6  | 5  | 6   |
| Barcelona         | 1 | 2 | 1 | 9  | 5  | 5   |
| Manchester United | 1 | 2 | 1 | 6  | 8  | 4   |
| Galatasaray       | 0 | 1 | 3 | 1  | 4  | 1   |

| Group B          | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Paris St Germain | 4 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 2  | 8   |
| Bayer Munich     | 1 | 2 | 1 | 4  | 5  | 4   |
| Spartak Moscow   | 0 | 2 | 2 | 6  | 8  | 2   |
| Dynamo Kiev      | 1 | 0 | 3 | 4  | 6  | 2   |

| Group C          | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Benfica          | 2 | 2 | 0 | 6  | 3  | 6   |
| Hajduk Split     | 2 | 2 | 0 | 3  | 1  | 6   |
| Steaua Bucharest | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 4  | 2   |
| Anderlecht       | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 5  | 2   |

| Group D         | W | D | L | GF | GA | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Ajax            | 2 | 2 | 0 | 5  | 2  | 6   |
| AC Milan        | 2 | 1 | 1 | 5  | 3  | 5   |
| Casino Salzburg | 0 | 3 | 1 | 1  | 4  | 3   |
| AEK Athens      | 0 | 2 | 2 | 2  | 4  | 2   |

NB: AC Milan deducted two points

## Top NBA players sitting out season opener

NEW YORK (AP) — Glenn Robinson is finally on board with the Bucks.

But he won't be on the court Friday night when the National Basketball Association Season Opener. Neither will a host of other notables, including Chris Mullin, Chris Webber, Dennis Rodman, Alonzo Mourning, Roy Tarpley and Brad Daugherty.

On the eve of the season opener, Robinson agreed to a 10-year contract believed to be worth between \$68 million and \$70.5 million, all guaranteed.

Mullin, a five-time All-Star for Golden State who has missed large parts of the last two seasons with injuries, is sidelined once again, this time with a fractured left kneecap. He is to miss six to

eight weeks.

Webber, last season's rookie of the year, hasn't re-signed with Golden State after becoming a restricted free agent one year after signing a 15-year, \$74.4 million deal.

Rodman, who led the league in rebounding last year, has been suspended for three games by San Antonio for refusing to play by team rules. And Mourning, Daugherty and Tarpley are all hurt.

The Charlotte Hornets now say Johnson is expected to play in their opener at Chicago. But Mourning, hampered by a sore big toe, won't play Friday or in Saturday's home opener against the Cavaliers. Charlotte Coach Allan Bristow said.

Another ailing player is

Shawn Bradley. Philadelphia's (2.29-metre) Centre plans on playing at home Friday against the Bucks for the first time since spraining his left knee last month.

"I want to play," said Bradley, who missed the last 32 games last year after hurting the same knee. "I haven't played in a long time. I want to go."

Roman was ejected from an exhibition game last week after throwing ice in the direction of coach Bob Hill and an official. That plus other transgressions prompted new general manager Gregg Popovich to get tough.

The Spurs want to start their season distraction free, even if it means doing without Rodman, who last year averaged 17.3 rebounds a game.

## Tyson to be top WBC contender on release from jail

SEVILLE (R) — Farmer heavyweight champion Mike Tyson will be number one contender for the World Boxing Council (WBC) crown on his release from jail early next year, the WBC said on Thursday.

A statement issued at a council meeting in Seville said an "overwhelming majority" of the WBC board of governors had voted to reinstate Tyson as number one challenger.

Tyson, who was waiting for a title chance when jailed for

rape in 1992, is due out of prison in Indiana next spring, but promoter Don King has said publicly he hopes the former champion will be freed before Christmas.

Tyson, seen as virtually invincible until dethroned by James "Buster" Douglas in 1990, would be expected to go through nine warm-up fights before a new title challenge, WBC President Jose Sulaiman told reporters.

Meanwhile, the WBC turned down a request from

Britain's Lennox Lewis for an immediate rematch with Oliver McCall of the United States, who stopped him to take the heavyweight title in a controversial decision in September.

Lewis claimed the referee was premature in stopping the contest after he was floored in round two.

But the council agreed that Lewis should fight the highest available contender before next March in a final eliminator for a fresh shot at the title.

## Schumacher takes provisional pole for Japanese Grand Prix

SUZUKA (AFP) — Benetton Ford's world championship leader Michael Schumacher comfortably beat Williams Renault challenger Damon Hill in Friday's first battle for pole position at the Japanese Grand Prix.

The 25-year-old Schumacher, who could become Germany's first world champion Sunday, set an early time of 1min 37.20sec on the Suzuka track. No-one came close.

Schumacher then sat out most of the rest of the first official practice because of heavy traffic. Hill, who trails his rival by only five points in the title contest with two races to go, clocked only 1:39.696 on the 11th of his 12 laps allowed.

"Really, I expected to be closer," said the 34-year-old

son of the late British champion Graham Hill, bidding hard for his first world title. "But tomorrow I want to be on pole position and I think it's possible."

If Schumacher wins the race, the Briton must come second to keep the title contest alive going into the final Grand Prix of the year in Australia November 13.

Schumacher's Benetton car again proved better in aerodynamic balance, as it has in most races this season, against the Williams' powerful Renault V-10 engine.

On a sun-baked track, Schumacher negotiated the high G-force corners without flinching on the twisty figure-eight Suzuka track over 5.8 kilometres (3.6 miles).

"I'm totally satisfied. The car has been nearly perfect from the first lap," said Schu-

macher who completed only seven laps and used only a single set of tyres.

His best lap, on which he averaged 217.165 kilometres per hour, came on the third lap. He made slight chassis adjustments before going into the second run to find the track clinged with rivals jostling for position.

"There is a lot of pressure. Now, let's say, the pressure is moving in some one else," Schumacher said.

Fellow-German Heinz-Harald Frentzen, a familiar face on the Japanese F3000 circuit, surprised the crowd with the third best qualifying time of 1:37.742 in a Sauber Mercedes.

Former world champion Nigel Mansell, back in a Williams for the third time this year, was the fourth fastest in 1:37.768.

"I had one really fantastic lap going, within one tenth of a second of Michael's time then I hit traffic," said Mansell. "But we're there in thereabouts and I think we can go better tomorrow."

He was six hundredths of a second ahead of Schumacher's British teammate Johnny Herbert, another former Japanese F3000 regular, who is an in-lan from the Benetton-owned Ligier team for the final two races.

Zito is sending Kentucky

## English, French horses bid for richest U.S. race

LOUISVILLE, Kentucky (R) — A startling move by the 133-1 longshot Arcangues at the close of last year's Breeders' Cup Classic finally transformed the race into the ideal of originators dreamed of a decade ago.

Because of Arcangues' victory and the cool climate of Kentucky in November, this year the \$3 million classic, to be run Saturday, will be as close to a world championship as a horse race is likely to be.

It caps a seven-race, \$10 million card at Churchill Downs that has attracted a record 27 horses who have done most of their running in Europe, six more than the previous high in the 10 years of cup races.

The classic, run on the dirt at 1 1/4 miles, has for years been a major factor in deciding the U.S. horse of the year, but only Arcangues has put a foreign invader in the winner's circle. The race never drew more than three Europeans.

This year there are six and all are given a chance. "You can make a case for every horse from France and England," U.S. trainer Nick Zito added. "Arcangues wasn't even the best European horse last year."

Zito is sending Kentucky

Derby winner Go For Gin into the Classic, but the horse has not won since the Derby in May and was established at 20-1 odds by the track handicapper. Two of the Europeans in the race — Ezzoud and Grand Lodge — are also rated at 20-1 but four of the invaders were considered better chances to win than the Kentucky Derby champion.

Flag Down, with two races in America already, is given the best chance of the Europeans in the classic. Most horses from Europe don't run on dirt and Flag Down was no exception until he ran a solid third at Belmont in last month's Jockey Club Gold Cup.

The second choice among the Transatlantic contingent, Dernier Empereur, is saddled by Andre Fabre, the trainer of Arcangues. Millkorn, another French campaigner, is the winner of 10 of 11 starts lifetime and will be ridden by Cash Asmussen, a transplanted American now based in Europe.

The sixth European entered in the classic, Cezanne, has been lightly raced, starting his season in July for trainer Michael Stute. Stoute is also saddling Ezzoud, whose last outing brought a fourth place in the Arc de Triumphant in Paris.

Zito is sending Kentucky



## European Basketball Championship

### Joventut Badalona lose again

**BADALONA (R)** — Defending champions Joventut Badalona slumped to a shock home defeat at the hands of Istanbul side Efes Pilsen, going down 84-70, in the men's European Club's Basketball Championship Thursday.

The result puts Joventut, who last week lost to arch-rivals Barcelona, bottom of Group B.

Joventut's problems began when they lost captain and playmaker Jordi Villacampa through injury after just 10 minutes. The Turks took control and went into the break with a 37-27 lead.

Joventut tried to fight back at the opening of the second period but missed a number of crucial rebounds and fell further behind.

Their miserable night was crowned by news that Villacampa, who twisted ligaments in his right knee, will be out of action for at least four weeks.

In Athens, Panathinaikos beat Maccabi Tel Aviv 63-62 in their Group A match. It was a second straight defeat for Maccabi at the hands of a Greek club after losing last week in Israel to Paok Salonika.

**Results of men's European Basketball Championship semi-final series basketball matches Thursday:**

**Group A**  
In Madrid: Real Madrid (Spain) 88 Scavolini Pesaro (Italy) 75 (halftime 41-44)

**Group B**  
Olympiakos (Greece) 2 0 4  
Barcelona (Spain) 2 0 4  
Istanbul (Turkey) 1 1 3  
Bologna (Italy) 1 1 3  
Cibona (Zagreb) (Croatia) 1 1 3  
Limoges (France) 1 1 3  
Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) 0 2 2  
Joventut Badalona (Spain) 0 2 2

**Leading scorers:**  
Real Madrid — Arvidas Sabonis 22, Antonio Martin 19, Joe Arlanckas 13.  
Scavolini — Walter Magnifico 22, Corey Gaines 10, Sandro Dell'Angello 9.  
In Lisbon: Benfica (Portugal) Ijubljana (Slovenia) 84 (43-47).

**Leading scorers:**  
Benfica — Carlos Lisboa 26, Jean Jacques 18, James Harville 15.  
Ijubljana — Jaka Danou 24, Dusan Hauptman 22, Marko Milic 9.

**Group B**  
In Leverkusen: Bayer

#### Group Standings

##### Group A

| Team                         | W | L | Pts |
|------------------------------|---|---|-----|
| CSKA Moscow (Russia)         | 2 | 0 | 4   |
| Real Madrid (Spain)          | 2 | 0 | 4   |
| Paok Salonika (Greece)       | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Pesaro (Italy)               | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Panathinaikos (Greece)       | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Olympia Ljubljana (Slovenia) | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Benfica (Portugal)           | 0 | 2 | 2   |
| Maccabi Tel Aviv (Israel)    | 0 | 2 | 2   |

##### Group B

| Team                       | W | L | Pts |
|----------------------------|---|---|-----|
| Olympiakos (Greece)        | 2 | 0 | 4   |
| Barcelona (Spain)          | 2 | 0 | 4   |
| Istanbul (Turkey)          | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Bologna (Italy)            | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Cibona (Zagreb) (Croatia)  | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Limoges (France)           | 1 | 1 | 3   |
| Bayer Leverkusen (Germany) | 0 | 2 | 2   |
| Joventut Badalona (Spain)  | 0 | 2 | 2   |

### Ahli score big win, Jazireh defeat Watani

**AMMAN (J.T.)** — Al Ahli crushed Homentmen 135-26 Thursday in the opening 91-68 win over Al Watani, while Al Orthodossi of the Kingdom's 1st Division and Al Hussein match was postponed. Basketball Championship.

### Capriati will return next week

**PHILADELPHIA (Agencies)** — Jennifer Capriati, who has not played a WTA event in 14 months due to personal problems, will return next week at a \$750,000 tournament, organisers said Thursday.

Eighteen-year-old Capriati has struggled with personal and legal problems since dropping off the circuit after losing in the first round of the 1993 U.S. Open, including a substance abuse treatment programme after arrested last

May for possession of drugs. The 1992 Olympic champion will accept a wild card invitation to play.

Capriati, who joined the WTA Tour at age 13, was burned out and depressed when she departed. Her struggles prompted the circuit to impose an age minimum of 16 years old starting next year.

"I was always expected to be at the top and if I didn't win, to me that meant I was a loser," Capriati said. "I felt

my parents and everybody else thought tennis was the way to make it. I thought no one wanted to know the person who was behind my tennis life."

Eleven months ago she was arrested for shoplifting for what she said was accidentally taking a ring from a store. Last May, after moving into an apartment, Capriati was arrested at a motel with drugs and underwent a rehabilitation programme.

#### Coetzer cruises into quarters

In Quebec City, top seed Amanda Coetzer of South Africa took nine of the final ten games for a convincing 6-3 6-1 victory over Mercedes Paz of Argentina in second-round play at the \$150,000 Bell Challenge tournament.

## Agassi set for ATP World Championship

**PARIS (AFP)** — Andre Agassi became the fifth player to qualify for next month's ATP World Championship finals in Frankfurt when he beat compatriot Todd Martin to reach the quarter-finals of the Paris Indoor Open late Thursday.

The eighth-seeded scored a 6-2, 7-5 win over compatriot Todd Martin to reach a quarter-final showdown at the \$2.25 million event against world number-one Pete Sampras.

And his relief and elation at reaching the world championship for the first time since 1991 were clear after a competent 1hr 21min victory.

"It's a big relief to have qualified for Frankfurt and it means I can relax and really go for my shots. When I'm confident there's no better player for me to face than the number-one player in the world. I'm really looking forward to it."

The other players already through to the elite eight-man finals are Sampras, Goran Ivanisevic, Sergi Bruguera and Boris Becker, and all four showed their paces by winning straight-set victories inside the grass-walled Bercy Stadium complex.

Boris Becker's awesome power rocked plucky Guy Forget back on his heels and sent France's last survivor crashing out of the tournament.

The new world number three, seeded sixth and bidding for his fourth victory in the event, notched up a 7-5, 7-6 (7/3) victory and now plays Swiss number one Marc Rosset for a place in Saturday's semi-finals.

Becker, who celebrates his 27th birthday later this month and who is fresh from triumphing at last weekend's Stockholm Open, left nobody in any doubt of his title pretensions.

His first seven serves were all aces, and by the end of the one and a half hour match his tally had risen to 22.

Forget, 29, who staged a brave comeback to top-flight tennis this summer after a year-long absence after a knee operation, tried desperately to stem the tide and fought all the way.

But Becker's weight of shot made the difference and he was always bad the 46th-ranked French left-hander under pressure.

Forget, whose ranking dropped out of the top 1,000 during his lay-off and who was the world number-four back in 1991, played a sloppy service game to drop the 36-minute first set. And although he saved three matches from 0-40 to hold serve and set up the second-set tie-break, the 1986, 1989 and 1992 champion served out for the match.

It was Becker's ninth career win over Forget in eleven matches.

Sampras beat dangerous sixteenth-seeded Dutch opponent Richard Krajicek 6-4, 7-6 (7/3) and defending champion Ivanisevic destroyed Swedish Davis Cup player Magnus Larsson by an identical scoreline after firing down 25 aces.

Krajicek produced the tournament's biggest serve, a 213kms per hour effort in the second set, but the American always had the edge in the few rallies which punctuated a match of serve-and-volleyers.

Like Forget, the other French players who had reached the last sixteen — Lionel Roux and Cedric Pioline — bowed out.

There was no fairy-tale ending for French wild-card entry Roux who put out second seed Michael Stich in straight sets in the second round.

Facing Switzerland's power-server Marc Rosset, the 21-year-old Frenchman was forced to retire after 35 minutes because of a wrist injury. He was trailing 1-6, 0-3.

"The wrist was giving me trouble in the final stages of the match against Stich," he said.

"I could hardly hold the racket out there today, and you can't survive like that against somebody who serves as well and hits as hard as Rosset."

Pioline's hopes of salvaging a disastrous season with a good run in the event fell apart when he was beaten in straight-sets 6-4, 7-5 by seventh-seed Michael Chang.

The French player, who has slumped from ninth to 43rd in the world rankings this year, saved five match points — but his effort came too late.



Andre Agassi

Chang, who still hopes to take one of the three remaining places at Frankfurt, now faces Ivanisevic who has gone on record as referring to the Chinese American as a "mosquito."

"He is always running everywhere. You have to win each point three times when you play him," grumbled the Croatian.

Petr Korda produced the day's biggest upset and sowed the first seeds of doubt in the mind of Russia's Davis Cup hero Yevgeny Kafelnikov by topping the twelfth seed 6-4, 6-2 — a defeat which all but ended the Russian player's hopes of qualifying for Frankfurt.

Kafelnikov, who has charged spectacularly up the rankings from outside the top 100 at the start of the season to just outside the top ten, and who has been the inspiration behind Russia's arrival in their first-ever Davis Cup final, was clearly shaken by the loss.

His temper flared several times in the hour-long encounter and he was lucky to escape a warning after throwing his racket and slamming a ball out of court in frustration.

After his first-round victory against Switzerland's experienced Jakob Hlasek, Kafelnikov said he liked the court conditions and expected to do "really well."

The Czech left-hander, who only rejoined the tour one month ago after a long absence because of hip and groin injuries sustained at the French Open, now plays Sergi Bruguera.

Bruguera found he could show no complacency when he faced Australian Mark Woodforde in the day's opening match.

Woodforde, better known as a doubles specialist, had put former world number one Jim Courier out 24 hours earlier and he got off to a superb start by forging 3-0 clear.

Bruguera, however, recovered his poise and scored a 6-4, 6-4 win against an opponent who had never taken a

set from him in the previous encounters.

What they've been saying at this week's \$2.25 million Paris Indoor Open:

"My physique is stronger. My legs are stronger. I can jump higher on the serve. My back is stronger. I can hit harder." — Boris Becker, asked the secret after his recent run of successes which have propelled him back to number three in the rankings.

"Next year I'll be playing more on clay. The French is one of the top items on the list. It is the one event I haven't won. I think I'm getting better on the surface."

World number one Pete Sampras.

"I am going to get some tapes of Steffi Graf and I am going to try to play like her so the public will be really excited for an hour and ten minutes watching a three-set match. If that's what they want, that's what they get."

Former world number one Jim Courier asked how he would adapt to the ITF's new 20-seconds limit between points.

"The new rules state that we have to play when there are people yelling. Jim knows that. If it had happened to him he would have walked off and left me standing there."

Australian Mark Woodforde after winning a set when Courier offered stroke because of crowd noise.

"I personally think it's too young. But I wish her well. Hopefully she has all the guts and luck and the good parenthood and everything...but it is going to be a long, tough road."

Becker on the professional debut of 14-year-old American Venus Williams on the women's tour.

"I think it's great, for France. I think it would be a similar equivalence if we named John McEnroe as our captain."

Andre Agassi on the appointment of Yannick Noah as France's Davis Cup captain.

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**East West vulnerable South**

North  
♠ 8 5 3  
♥ 10 8 2  
♦ Q J 10  
♣ A Q J 10

West  
♠ K Q 10 6 4 2  
♥ 7 5 3  
♦ 8 4  
♣ 7

South  
♠ A 9 7  
♥ 8  
♦ A K J 10 6 3 2  
♣ 5

The bidding:  
South West North East  
1 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
2 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
3 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
4 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
6 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
7 ♠ Pass Pass Pass

Don't ask us how we would bid East's hand or the South hand, for that matter — there's no right way to handle trick distributions. Faced in fact, our first choice would be an clubs — disastrous as the cards be. However, double would be our last pick. We would probably miss the double with West's cards because of the ruffing value in clubs.

An opening lead of the king of spades would have settled the outcome at trick one — in declarer's favor. Cut off from each other, East

**NO CHEAP RUFF**

would be employed when declarer was the one of spades, draws trumps and exits with a club. Since West passed the double because of the homing ruff, the club opening lead left the issue in doubt. East captured the king with the ace and returned a club — first cashing the ace of hearts would have been a distinct improvement. On the second trick South jettisoned the losing heart.

Had West ruffed declarer would have made the rest of the tricks with ease. After winning whatever West returned, declarer would draw trumps in two rounds, ending in dummy and take two spade discards on the clubs. West temporarily thwarted this plan by discarding a spade.

Now, if declarer attempts to draw trumps, West will ruff the club and exit with the king of spades and the defenders will eventually get a spade trick for down one. However, declarer found an ingenious counter.

Obviously, West had at least one diamond, yet had chosen not to ruff. Therefore, it was in declarer's best interest to force West to trump. So declarer simply won the club in dummy and continued the suit, discarding a spade from hand. The defense was helpless.

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## U.N. force to leave Somalia by March 31

UNITED NATIONS (Agencies) — The United Nations will withdraw all its peacekeeping troops from Somalia by March 31, the Security Council decided Friday.

The council passed a resolution saying that the U.N. operation mandate for Somalia would be extended to that date, but not beyond it, and that its primary purpose would be "to facilitate political reconciliation."

The resolution says that every effort will be made to withdraw the 15,000 U.N. peacekeeping troops by March 31 "in a secure and orderly manner."

This is by no means assured since Somali warlords who have repeatedly thwarted efforts to establish a transitional government may try to loot the departing U.N. force.

About 15,000 U.N. troops remain out of a force which at one point grew to more than 29,000, sent to rescue Somalis from famine and chaos in which hundreds of thousands died and more than a million fled to neighbouring countries after the downfall of President Siad Barre in 1991.

The Security Council, in a unanimous resolution, renewed their mandate "for a final period" until the end of next March.

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said in a recent report the U.N. Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) would need, oval and air reinforcements in case it had to withdraw "in face of hostile action by Somali factions and/or widespread banditry."

The council resolution says absence of progress in reconciling the rival factions "has fundamentally undermined the United Nations objectives in Somalia" so that "Continuation of UNOSOM II beyond March 1995 cannot be justified."

In Mogadishu, factions allied with warlord General Mohammed Farah Aidede promised on Friday to cooperate, to allow an orderly withdrawal of U.N. forces from Somalia.

But they hit out at UNOSOM for boycotting a disputed conference held by them and condemned U.N. special envoy Victor Ghebo for saying it was a recipe for new conflict.

The statement by Gen. Aidede, who escaped capture by U.N. forces hunting him last year, and his allies came shortly before the Security Council voted for the U.N. force pull-out by March 31.

Gen. Aidede's Somali National Alliance (SNA) and allied factions attending what they bill as a national reconciliation conference this week said they were intent on advancing the peace process.

"We assure the international community and the Security Council in particular of our full cooperation to actualise an orderly and a progressive phasing out of the military component of UNOSOM in advance of 31 March 1995," the statement said.

"We are ready to create the security conditions that will facilitate this withdrawal."

"We appeal to the Security Council to scrutinise the role of the leadership of UNOSOM and reevaluate its actual intentions and activities in further peace and reconciliation," it said.

U.N. envoy Ghebo warned on Wednesday that a decision by factions loyal to Gen. Aidede to organise the "unilateral" peace conference which excluded rival groups was likely to lead to fresh bloodshed.

Mr. Ghebo said the "national reconciliation conference" convened by Gen.

(Continued on page 7)

## Mother said to switch 'carjacking' tale to confessing to killing 2 sons

UNION, South Carolina (AP) — She spun a heart-breaking tale of being dumped on a lonely road by a carjacker who abducted her two young sons. On Friday, she was jeered by spectators and covered her face as she arrived at the courthouse to face murder charges.

Susan Smith, who faces two counts of murder, was supposed to have a bond hearing Friday. But her lawyer, David Bruck, waived that and she did not appear in the courtroom during the two-minute session. Circuit Judge Larry Patterson ordered that she remain in custody without bond.

Mr. Bruck is a death-penalty expert. Solicitor Thomas Pope, the local prosecutor, had said he would consider seeking the death penalty against Mrs. Smith.

Mrs. Smith, whose tearful pleas for her sons' return inspired a nationwide vigil, confessed to killing three-year-old Michael and 14-month-old Alex, according to an arrest warrant. And the nine-day search by authorities and hundreds of volunteers ended where their mother's story began: At John D. Long Lake.

Mr. Bruck would not discuss a possible defence strategy or other aspects of the case. All he would say about Mrs. Smith was that "she is heartbroken."

Mrs. Smith, who is white, described the carjacker as an armed black man wearing a nit cap.

Police circulated a composite sketch based on Mrs. Smith's description of the alleged kidnapper, and people called in tips from around the country. People in Union prayed vigils, hung yellow ribbons and posted pictures of the children.

Emotions were high Friday as Mrs. Smith was driven to the York county detention centre in Rock Hill, where she was held overnight, to the courthouse in Union, in northwestern South Carolina.

Fifteen to 20 people watched as Mrs. Smith, covering her face with her manicured hands, took a few steps from the jail to an unmarked police car waiting to take her to Union, about 65 kilometres away.

"I hope you get what you serve," one of the spectators shouted. "You deserve whatever you get," another said. Mrs. Smith said oo-

thing. The scene was repeated when she arrived at the Union courthouse. "Hold your head up, you're a baby murderer," shouted Gloria Smith, one of those in the pack.

Because of local officials' concerns for her safety, South Carolina Governor Carroll Campbell said he had signed an order transferring Mrs. Smith to state custody at the women's correctional centre north of Columbia.

Mrs. Smith's burgundy 1990 Mazda was pulled out of the lake Thursday night, the bodies of two children in the back seat.

Union County Sheriff Howard Wells would not take questions at a news conference and did not discuss a possible motive. He said the identity of the bodies would have to be confirmed through an autopsy.

The autopsy also was expected to determine whether the boys died in the lake or were killed beforehand. It was completed at 4 a.m. Friday at the medical university of South Carolina in Charleston, according to school spokesman Jeff Watkins. He would not comment on the results.

The Cable News Network, citing an unidentified source, said Mrs. Smith became a strong suspect when investigators found a letter from a boyfriend telling her he wanted to be with her but he "did not want any kids around." The boyfriend was not identified.

Mrs. Smith was extremely upset that she had broken up with the boyfriend about a week earlier, and part of the problem was that he was not fond of children, the (Columbia) State Newspaper said.

Residents of this mill town who searched and prayed for the children reacted with anger and bitterness. Dozens of people outside the county courthouse gasped and sobbed when the charges were announced on Thursday.

Gillian Edward, who is black, said Mrs. Smith's use of a black man as a scapegoat exemplified the racial problems still existing in Union and in the south.

"Everyone was so willing to believe that a black man had stolen this white lady's kids," said Edward. "The problem is that America still portrays black men as thugs and criminals and everyone is



FLOODS IN GAZA: A Palestinian directs traffic in a flooded street in Gaza City in autonomous Gaza Strip on Thursday. A freak storm, hitting the near east and causing

extensive damage, affected several countries in the region, including, Egypt, Israel and Jordan (see page 1) (AFP photo)

## Rabbani forces foil opposition assault

KABUL (AP) — Opposition forces launched a ground attack backed by heavy shelling at dawn Friday, but suffered heavy losses and were repulsed by government troops in the southwest of the capital, officials said.

The fierce battle lasted throughout the morning and into the afternoon as rockets and mortars crashed into the city at the rate of two or three a minute.

President Burhanuddin Rabbani's troops and the mao opposition group, led by renegade Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, have been battling for control of the southwest of Kabul for the past seven weeks, with little change in the positions.

Mr. Hekmatyar's men infiltrated the area overnight and began their attack at dawn, according to Dr. Abdullah, a spokesman for the government army.

"We knew about their movements in the night, the attack was stopped and they were pushed back," said Dr. Abdullah, who like many Afghans is known by only one name. "There are a lot of dead bodies from their side."

No precise casualty figures were available. Mr. Hekmatyar and his allies are entrenched on Kabul's outskirts but they have been unable to push their way into the city despite heavy fighting throughout the year.

The two sides are separated by only a few hundred metres on the front line in the southwest. Almost all the civilians have fled the area and most of the houses and buildings have been reduced to rubble.

While ground assaults are relatively rare, both sides exchange rocket, mortar and tank rounds daily. The shelling was particularly heavy Friday morning and many of Hekmatyar's rockets fell in civilian areas of the city.

The Rabbani government is expected to respond soon to the latest United Nations peace proposal. U.N. envoy Mahmud Mestiri outlined the plan during recent visits to Afghanistan, where he met with faction leaders.

The plan calls for a transfer of power from the Rabbani government — which has little power at present — to an interim national commission made up of leaders from the various factions and other groups.

Authorities said they had not completed their investigation but were not inclined to think that Mrs. Smith's estranged husband, David, or others would be implicated.

Mr. Smith's mother, Barbara Benson of Garden City, said her son is devastated. "He's locked in a room and he won't even talk to his father," she said. She said she had no idea what could be behind the deaths.

The unravelling of Mrs. Smith's story is similar to the 1989 Charles Stuart murder case in Boston. Stuart, a white man, told police a black man shot his pregnant wife to death. Stuart later jumped to his death from a bridge as investigators zeroed in on him as the killer.

Mrs. Smith, 23, told authorities an armed black man jumped into her car at a stoplight in a sparsely populated area at the edge of town near the lake. She said he ordered her to drive several kilometres, then forced her out and took off with her two sons still strapped in their safety seats.

"Our lives have been torn apart by this tragic event," Mrs. Smith said earlier this week, her husband by her side. "I can't express how much they are wanted back home."

As late as Tuesday, Mr. Wells said he was treating the case "as a carjacking that happened as it was reported," although investigators were perplexed about how the car and the boys could have disappeared so completely.

On Wednesday, police searched Mrs. Smith's home and took several bags.

The Smiths filed for divorce in September. Mrs. Smith was granted custody of the two children and her husband had visitation rights.

## Morocco says French gangster had stolen ID

RABAT (R) — Francois Besse, one of France's most wanted criminals, had a stolen passport and was accompanied by a woman posing as his wife when he was arrested in Morocco, officials said on Friday.

Interior Ministry sources quoted by the official news agency Map said that when Besse was arrested on Thursday near the northern city of Tangier he had a stolen passport in the name of Carlos Juan Garcia Durand, a driving licence in the name of Jean Estella and a sum of foreign currency.

Under sentence of death in France, Besse, former right-hand man of the notorious French gangster Jacques Mesrine, is wanted on a string of charges in France where police believe he was involved recently in drug smuggling from Morocco.

Arrested at the same time was a woman companion posing as his wife and carrying an identity card in the name of Marcelle Adelida Soisic Levebre.

The source did not give the circumstances of their arrest, but French police sources said he was captured in a restaurant in the small fishing village of Fndeq, east of Tangier.

Moroccan police earlier said Besse was arrested while attempting to board an international flight at the Tangier airport.

At a news conference in Paris, Ange Mancini, deputy director of criminal justice, said three other wanted criminals were arrested at the same time, two Moroccans and a French citizen named Stephane Delavi.

Mr. Mancini said Besse, 50, was sighted in Morocco two weeks ago and his arrest was the result of "exemplary cooperation" between French, Spanish and Moroccan police.

Mr. Besse met Mesrine in La Sante Prison in Paris from where they escaped together in 1978 when they embarked on a joint campaign of armed hold-ups which ended when Mesrine was shot dead in a police ambush in 1979.

Mr. Besse made six jail breaks in his career, the most sensational from the main court building Brussels, after his arrest in Belgium in 1979.

He took a magistrate hostage with a pistol which was taped under his seat in the courtroom by a girlfriend.

Mr. Besse had not been seen since his escape from a Spanish prison in 1983. His trail was found again earlier this year when his fingerprints were found in western France where he was believed to have held up a bank and disarmed several policemen.

Since Aug. 13 when hooded gunmen killed two Spanish tourists in the lobby of a luxury hotel in the southern city of Marrakesh, Moroccan police have arrested a dozen suspects of Moroccan or Algerian origin resident in France.

There is no indication that Besse and his associates were in any way connected with the so-called subversives.

## Fateh holds elections in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat's Fateh faction moved to silence internal dissent by holding elections in the West Bank district of Ramallah on Friday.

The poll was the ruling group's initial step towards general balloting that will force Fateh to compete for government leadership as a political party for the first time.

Behind the closed doors of the city theatre, Fateh activists listened to some of the candidates for 45 positions speak about the importance of all 620 members pulling together. Results of the poll are due by Saturday.

One activist reported that those attending were all concerned that continued squabbling over leadership positions would fragment Fateh, which makes up the majority of Mr. Arafat's self-rule government.

There were also concerns that the friction was costing Fateh popular support.

"Fateh, the leading faction in the Palestinian National Authority, must also be the leading movement in the Palestinian society," said activist Sarhan Salameh.

Mr. Salameh added that Friday's elections were also an attempt to prove to the people that Mr. Arafat did not plan an autocratic rule.

"If we are not democratic within the movement, we will never be democratic in dealing with our people," Mr. Salameh told the Associated Press.

Similar elections will be held throughout the West Bank every Friday until more than 5,000 activists elect leaders in nine districts in the West Bank. The next slated polling will be in Tulikarm on Nov. 11.

Palestinians have heavily criticised Mr. Arafat's arbitrary appointments of local leaders and public officials, especially the practice of naming more than one person for the same position.

Mr. Arafat further slighted local Palestinians by appointing many followers from abroad to the Palestinian authority over those who lived through the Israeli occupation and the seven-year uprising.

These policies have caused a "lot of squabbling and friction among Fateh leaders who belong to various wings in the movement," said Hatem Abdul Qader, an official at the Palestinian Media and Information Ministry.

Mr. Arafat has already named himself president of the would-be Palestioia state. However, he agreed to put his position as head of the Palestioia government council to a popular vote.

## COLUMN

### Mother confesses to killing sons

UNION, South Carolina (AP) — A woman who said her two sons, aged three and 14 months, were abducted in a carjacking was arrested Thursday after confessing to killing them, according to her arrest warrant. Susan Smith was arrested and will be charged on two counts of murder Friday in the deaths of her children, Michael, 3, and Alexander, 14 months.

Union County Sheriff Howard Wells said. It was the second case of abducted children reported in recent weeks to capture the country's sympathies — and to end in a parent's arrest on murder charges. A nine-day interstate search for the boys ended with the grim confession of Mrs. Smith, who told police she was looking for her missing car in John D. Long Lake. Mrs. Smith, 23, had told police that a black gunman had jumped into her 1990 burgundy Mazda while she sat at a stoplight near the lake on Oct. 25. She said he forced her to drive a few kilometres and then ordered her out, driving off with her two young sons still strapped in their safety seats.

The arrest warrant shows that Michael and Alexander died Oct. 25. Two bodies found in the back seat of Mrs. Smith's car will undergo autopsies, Sheriff Wells said. During the past nine days Mrs. Smith and her estranged husband, David, had appeared on nationwide television several times, tearfully pleading for the boys' return and asking for prayers for their safety.

Speculation began to grow about Susan Smith's role in the incident after she reportedly took two lie-detector tests and showed deep emotion in both of them.

Wednesday, investigators searched her home and removed some unidentified items. They refused to say what they were looking for. Divers had searched John D. Long Lake several times before another search Thursday turned up her car.

U.K. clamps down on steroids

LONDON (R) — The British government Wednesday announced tough new controls on anabolic steroids used by athletes and bodybuilders to boost their performances. The proposals, announced by Interior Minister Michael Howard, would make it a crime to produce, possess or trade in steroids. Suppliers of the drug could face up to five years in prison and an unlimited fine if found guilty. "These measures will help to stop the activities of the unscrupulous illicit suppliers and traffickers which feed anabolic steroid misuse," Mr. Howard said in a statement. Mr. Howard warned that if the new controls are not effective, the government will consider even tougher measures. Steroid abuse can cause heart and liver problems, as well as causing mood swings and aggressive behaviour.

Athletes use the drug to build up muscles and to allow them to increase their training load. The most notorious example was Canadian sprinter Ben Johnson, who was stripped of his 100 metres gold medal after testing positive for drugs at the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul. Britain's Sports Council has said that despite media reports of new "space-age" drugs, steroid abuse is still a big problem. But some council members have expressed concern that tougher government measures could just drive the problem underground.

Mr. Universe held in S. Africa over banned steroids

PRETORIA (R) — South African police said Friday they had arrested newly-crowned Mr. Universe and a former Mr. South Africa after the men were found in possession of illegal steroids. The police said Mr. Universe Nick Van Beuck, a former Mr. South Africa Jacobus (Tukkie) Joubert and body-builder Eugene Van Der Westhuizen were arrested by the police narcotics bureau in Pretoria Thursday. Police Captain Dave Harrington said some of the performance- and body-enhancing steroids seized from the men were unknown in South Africa.

### Israeli-allied gunman, guerrilla killed

MARIAYOUN, Lebanon (R) — Guerrillas set off a bomb near an Israeli-allied militia patrol in South Lebanon on Friday, killing one militiaman, security sources said. They said the South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiaman suffered severe wounds and died later from the blast in Kfar Houneh in Israel's occupation zone. In an earlier incident, SLA sources said one guerrilla was killed when a guerrilla force clashed at dawn with SLA troops manning Beit Yahoun crossing point leading into the zone's western sector. In reprisal to the Kfar Houneh attack, Israeli and SLA forces opened up with artillery on guerrilla-held hills facing the village, the security sources added. No group claimed responsibility for Friday's attacks, but on Thursday the pro-Iranian Hizbollah (Party of God), which raids the Israelis and SLA in the zone daily, claimed responsibility for assaults on four SLA Posts, including Beit Yahoun.

### Morocco, Israel to cooperate over energy

RABAT (AFP) — Morocco and Israel are discussing joint energy projects including the construction of a power station using bitumen deposits in southern Morocco, officials said. Morocco's national electricity company (ONE) issued a statement saying it was to commission a feasibility study from the Israeli PAMA company for a power station at Tarfaya, southern Morocco. The project was proposed by one at this week's Middle East economic summit in Casablanca. PAMA is one of several partners in a cooperation agreement about to be concluded, according to an official statement. Moroccan technicians in September visited PAMA installations producing electricity from Bitumen deposits at Rotem in Israel. Tarfaya power station had a planned production capacity of 75 megawatts.

### U.S. carrier, British frigate pass through Suez

SUEZ (AP) — The U.S. aircraft carrier George Washington and British frigate Cornwall, which had been dispatched to the Gulf last month to counter an Iraqi troop buildup, passed Friday through the Suez Canal en route to the Mediterranean. The USS George Washington carries nearly 50 fighter jets as well as reconnaissance planes, while the HMS Cornwall specialises in anti-submarine warfare. Both were sent to the Gulf last month after Iraq moved more than 70,000 troops towards the Kuwaiti border. Western allies of Kuwait moved air, land and sea units to the region to prevent a repeat of Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The Pentagon at one time had 150,000 troops on alert for possible deployment, but the number now is not expected to grow higher than 34,000. The troops

in the area will conduct training exercises before withdrawing, the Pentagon has said.

### Yemen minister begins visit

AMMAN (Petra) — Yemeni Minister of Social Affairs and Labour Mohammad Abdullah Al Batri arrived here Friday on a several day official visit to Jordan during which he will hold talks with senior Jordanian officials on means of enhancing relations in labour and social affairs. In an arrival statement, Mr. Batri said his visit comes in response to an invitation extended to him by his Jordanian counterpart Mohammad Al Sqour.

### Israel, Turkey sign counter-terrorism accord

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Turkish Prime Minister Tansu Ciller and her Israeli counterpart Yitzhak Rabin have signed a police cooperation agreement on counter-terrorism, crime and drug trafficking, officials said Friday. "Israel has already reached similar understandings with Great Britain, France, Germany and other countries," a senior official said after the signing ceremony on Thursday night. The agreement covers embassy protection but does not involve Israel in the conflict between Turkey and Kurdish nationalists, underlined the official, who refused to be named. The two countries also signed telecommunication and postal accords and are negotiating a deal for Israel to update Turkey's F4 Phantom aircraft. Terrorism dominated talks Ms. Ciller held Friday with Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, officials added. Mr. Peres accused Iran at being "the centre of the spider's web of international terrorism," officials said. Ms. Ciller, who arrived Friday as the first Turkish prime minister to visit the Jewish state, meets Yasser Arafat in Gaza City on Saturday and goes on to Egypt. She went with Mr. Rabin to a Tel Aviv suburb on Friday to meet representatives of Israel's 80,000-strong Jewish community of Turkish origin.

### Kurds receive Norwegian award

BERGEN, Norway (AFP) — Teenagers Ruken Zana, 13, and Ronay Zana, 18, on Friday won the Rafto Award on behalf of their imprisoned mother, Turkish parliamentarian Leyla Zana, a symbol of the Kurdish struggle for democracy and human rights. The Rafto Award on Human Rights has won international prestige and is handed out every year on Nov. 4 to commemorate the death of Professor Thorolf Rafto in Bergen. The two teenagers live in Paris where they go to school. Last week Ronay Zana was able to see his mother in the Ankara prison.

كلمة اليوم